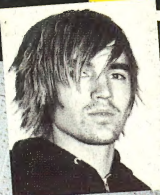


**MUSE** EARLS COURT SPECTACULAR REVIEWED!

# KERRANG!

**LIFE IS LOUD**

VELVET REVOLVER • GREEN DAY • GOOD CHARLOT • ENEMY • BLINK 182



**FOR REAL?**  
CHARLIE FROM  
BUSTED GOES EMO

**WORLD EXCLUSIVE!**

# FOO FIGHTERS

**HEAD UP THE 50 ALBUMS  
YOU MUST HEAR IN 2005!**

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**SYSTEM OF A DOWN FEEDER**

**SLAYER FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND**

**QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE**

**NINE INCH NAILS DEFTONES**

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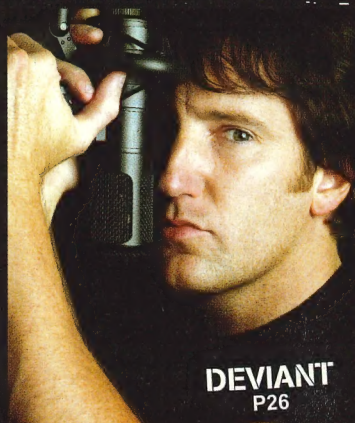
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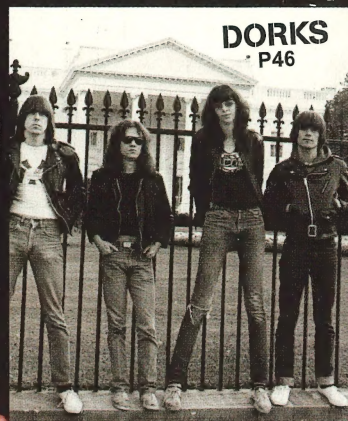


**YOU KNOW** the next 12 months look good when you have trouble whittling the biggest album releases down to just 50. But that's exactly what happened when we put this issue together. Lots of big name comebacks and exciting newcomers to get worked up about. Personally, I think I'm most looking forward to the Foo Fighters, Deftones, 'A' and Poison The Well albums. I've heard bits of the new Million Dead record too and I think they're going to take a huge step up in 2005, along with hotly tipped newcomers like yourcodenameis:milo. All good. So here's to another huge year for proper balls-out rock music with passion and guts. This year's going to be the best...

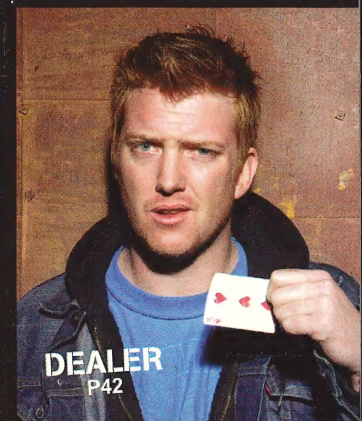
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EDITOR



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## KERRANG! EDITORIAL

EMAP Performance, PO Box 2930, London, W1A 6DZ

TEL: 020 7182 8000 FAX: 020 7182 8910  
E-MAIL: kerrang@emap.com

EDITOR: ASHLEY BIRD

DEPUTY EDITOR: PAUL BRANNIGAN  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: JO KENDALL

## SECTIONS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR (FEATURES):

MATT POTTER

BREAKER EDITOR: NICHOLA BROWNE

VOLUME EDITOR/DESIGNER:

BIRGIT MARTINUSSEN

RATED EDITOR: LUKE LEWIS

SENIOR WRITER/INTRODUCING EDITOR:

SIMON YOUNG

## ART

ART EDITOR: CAROLINE FISH

SENIOR DESIGNER: LUCY BRYANT

PICTURE RESEARCHER: SCARLET BORG

## PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION EDITOR: LUCY WILLIAMS

SUB EDITOR: CAREN GIBSON

EDITOR IN CHIEF: PHIL ALEXANDER

THANKS THIS ISSUE: PAMELA STEURI

## CONTRIBUTORS

Rae Alexandra, Steve Beebee, Tom Bryant, Billy Chainsaw, Stevie Chick, Mark Greenway, Mark Griffiths, Owen Hopkin, Emma Johnston, Alistair Lawrence, Dom Lawson, Daniel Lukes, Joe Madera, Alexander Milas, Mörat, Ben Myers, Camilla Pla, Nick Ruskell, James Sherry, Ollie Thomas, Paul Travers, Ian Winwood, Catherine Yates, Rod Yates, Ray Zell

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gene Ambo, Rodolphe Baras, Chris Casey, Paul Harries, Kelda Hole, Lisa Johnson, Tina Korhonen, Jenny Lewis, Scarlet Page, Martin Philby, Pat Pope, James Stafford, Nick Stevens, Sandra Walbl, Dave Willis, Tony Woollicroft

## KERRANG! CLOTHING

Co-ordinator: Oliver McCormack

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Music Manager: Chris Shepperson

Music Account Executives: Alison Copeland,

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Media Planner: Andy Long

Film Manager: Charlotte Heyburn

Film Executive: Kristina Bolger

Account Manager: Andrew Turner

Account Executives: Lizzie Hoskinson,

Neil Mcsteen

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Account Manager: Hussain Chowdhury/

Simon Philby

Account Co-ordinator: Lisa Rokny

Project Manager: Jennie Mitchener

Art Director: Steve Elston

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Marketing Manager: Nick Knowles

Artist and label Manager: Jacqui Pinto

Project Manager: Marguerite Cartwright

Relationship Marketing Manager: Ben Holland

Marketing Assistant: Jo Sankey

Circulation And Trade Marketing Manager:

Natalie Yorke

Circulation And Trade Marketing Executive:

Hannah Bryant

Head Of PR: Maureen Corish

Managing Director Of Emap Performance:

Marcus Rich

Publishing Director: Stuart Williams

Creative Director: Dave Henderson

Group Chief Executive: Tom Moloney

Distribution: Frontline

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## KERRANG! SUBSCRIPTIONS, BACK ISSUES & SPECIAL EDITIONS

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Jersey, 07001.

## KERRANG! TV FEEDBACK/COMPLAINTS:

Tel: 0207 7182 8767

E-mail: [TVfeedback@kerrang.com](mailto:TVfeedback@kerrang.com)

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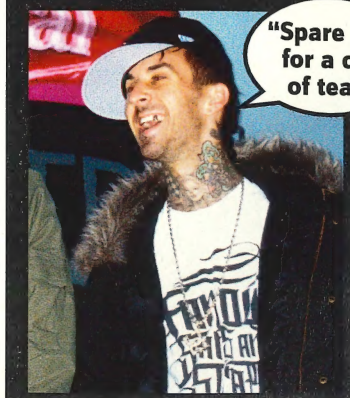
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WRITE: Feedback, Kerrang!, PO Box 2930, London, W1A 6DZ E-MAIL: [kerrang@emap.com](mailto:kerrang@emap.com)  
TEXT: KFEEDBACK followed by your message and name to 07940 320 320 (charged at normal operator rate)

## THE MISSING BLINK

SINCE WHEN did Baldrick from 'Blackadder' join Blink 182 (Cover, K11035)? I think we should be told.  
LORD PERCY, CHEAPSIDE.

WHEN DID a hobo replace Travis Barker as drummer for Blink 182?  
JAMES, VIA E-MAIL.



"Spare 10p for a cup of tea?"

Photo: Nick Stevens

## THE GREAT ESCAPE

HOW MUCH do The Dillinger Escape Plan rock? My ears do not work properly but they fucking rocked!

HUW, VIA TEXT.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR?

I USED to really like K! but I'm bored with it now. It's not your fault, there's just not enough aggro or attitude in the rock industry. God, even the word 'attitude' has now been requisitioned by a gay lifestyle mag. Let's face facts – modern rock is a pale shadow of its illustrious past. Why must all up-and-coming rock acts sell themselves short in the pursuit of populist drive? Iron Maiden were shite for decades, but at least 'Bring Your Daughter To The Slaughter' added a bit of twisted style to the pop charts. Now it's ALL so boring. When did rock become just meaningless bollocks?

JAY BURR, HANTS.



## FOR DIMEBAG

THANK YOU SO much for the obituary on Dimebag Darrell (K11036). After reading it I bought two Pantera albums and 'Down II' and I loved them. And thanks again for making all of my wishes come true in the Readers' Poll! What can I say? YOU RULE!!

MINIMOSHER666.

DIMEBAG WILL be sorely missed. He changed metal forever. What a legend. Love to all his family.

CHRIS, VIA TEXT.

NOTHING TO say except RIP Dimebag.  
BROWNIEY.

## SUPERSIZE ME

WELL K!, after struggling with it for a good while, I finally have your huge-ass Green Day poster (K11034 and K11035) on my wall. I shall sleep well tonight.

CAZ, GLASGOW.

## SWEDE EMOTION!

I SAW the best gig of 2004, Arch Enemy at the Forum. Everyone down in the pit were fantastic, all rocking together in perfect harmony and I was blown away by The Haunted. I hadn't heard much of their music, but they were great, and I even managed to grab a souvenir – one slightly frayed drumstick. Please, please, please come back soon for another Swedish Apocalypse, and Angela is one of the hottest women on the planet – how she wasn't included in the K! Readers' Poll (K11036) is beyond me – she beats Pandora hands down....

JAY, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

## WAY TOO DAMN GOOD...

REGARDING THE sexiest voice in rock history (Feedback K11035): Chad Kroeger, sexiest voice, sexiest face, sexiest body, and sexiest guitar moves!

Phwooar!!

ELAINE, NOTTINGHAM.

## INSTANT WHIP

GOT KORN'S 'Greatest Hits' CD on Monday and now I have got fucking whiplash.

ROCKCHICK.

## THE JOY OF SIX

WITH REGARD to Electric Six and 'Radio Ga Ga' (Feedback K11036). I don't think there's anything wrong. It's a great cover and Fred would have loved it. RIP DIMEBAG!

TROR.

## SO PREDICTABLE

SO GREEN Day won the title of 'Best Band' (K11036).

Wow. Never seen that one coming...

From a disgusted nu-metalter (yes, we're still there).

ANON, VIA TEXT.



## THE SKANKS OF THE MUDDY WI-SKA

NIRVANA ARE driving me mad, get some ska stuff in K! (pretty please?).

KRIS BALL.

## RANT OF THE WEEK

## Rock of (all) ages

THE RECENT features on The Darkness (K11034) and Ash (K11035) have gone down very well with my 50-year-old mother who has suddenly found a fascination with Darkness guitarist Dan Hawkins. Thank you for such pleasing articles, they've actually brought some happiness to our household. And it's nice to know that the Lowestoft cock-rockers aren't completely written off because of their Lycra-clad, pelvic-thrusting appearance!

EUSKARA THE VEGGIE, LEEDS.



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ONE OF SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX WAYS TO START THE NEW YEAR!

# THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST



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**SIDE B**

**\*THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST**  
(LIVE AT BRIXTON ACADEMY, MARCH 2002)

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(ORIGINAL VERSION)

**2. \*THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST**  
(LIVE AT BRIXTON ACADEMY, MARCH 2002)

**SIDE B**

**1. REMEMBER TOMORROW**  
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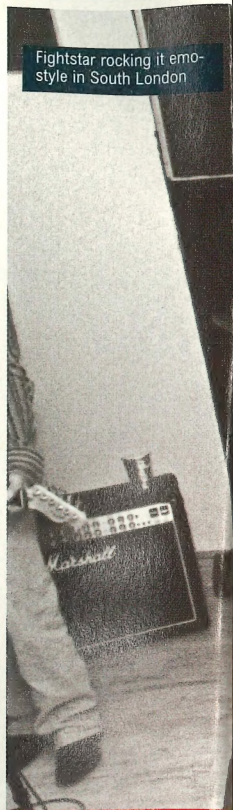


Charlie Simpson shows K1 that he knows more than three chords...

Fightstar rocking it emo-style in South London

**"MY**

**CHARLIE  
BAND.**







## PASSION LIES IN FIGHTSTAR

THE FORMER BUSTED FRONTMAN HAS A NEW POST-HARDCORE BAND AND HE WANTS YOU TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY...



**CHARLIE SIMPSON** – frontman of pop act Busted has told Kerrang! that he is willing to quit the multi-million-selling trio to concentrate on his post hardcore-influenced rock band Fightstar.

With tabloid reports alleging that Simpson was planning to quit Busted at the end of their December tour, we confronted the singer/guitarist with the questions he's going to have to answer if rock fans are really going to give his new band a chance...

**CAN YOU SEE WHY PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT BUSTED RIPPED OFF NEW FOUND GLORY AND BLINK 182 AND NOW HERE'S THE SAME BLOKE DOING THE SAME THING TO POST-HARDCORE BANDS?**

"Totally. The Busted thing happened when I was 16. I saw an opportunity, took it and it was better than being at school. It was cool, it was a fun job to do but I'd never claim Busted was anything other than a pop band. Busted is not the ideal band I'd like to be in by any stretch of the imagination. This is my ideal band."

**DO YOU FEEL LIKE A FRAUD WHEN YOU'RE ON TV WITH BUSTED IN, SAY, A FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND T-SHIRT?**

"I want kids to pick up on good music instead of shit music. A 12-year-old told me they'd checked out the Aereogramme album. That's fucking cool! If kids are looking up to Busted, I'd much rather they came away from it thinking, 'He likes that band, let's check them out' rather than checking out some wanky top 40 record."

**IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A BIG-MONEY BUSTED TOUR AND A TOILET CIRCUIT TOUR WITH**

**FIGHTSTAR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

"It's not about the money. The money means nothing to me. I'm completely at peace with myself doing this so I'm happy with whatever comes with it."

**SO YOU'D CHOOSE FIGHTSTAR OVER BUSTED?**

"Yes. If that situation came up then, at the end of the day, my passion lies in Fightstar's music."

**DO YOU THINK YOU BEING IN BUSTED WILL HOLD FIGHTSTAR BACK?**

"I can see why people are suspicious. It only gets in the way when people can only see me as Busted. Lots of people say to me, 'I completely hate Busted'. That's completely cool with me. I understand why. Some people will hold it against me and some people won't."

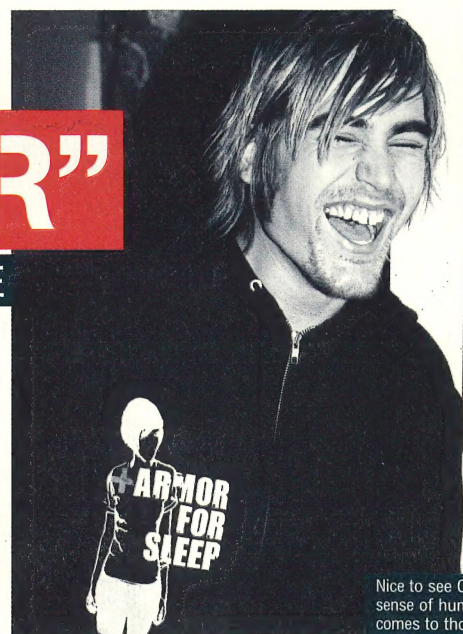
**WOULD YOU QUIT BUSTED FOR FIGHTSTAR?**

"I can't say too much because of the politics involved, but Fightstar is what I do and so, if I have to choose, there's not even a question as to what I'd do."

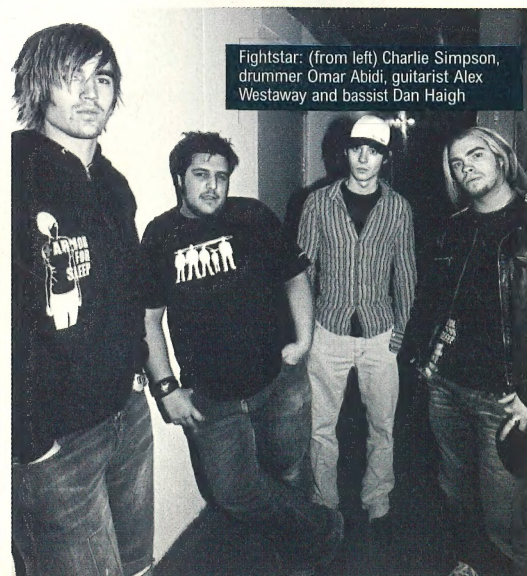
**DO YOU REGRET JOINING BUSTED?**

"For all the shit Busted gets, it's given me an opportunity and it's fun. I'll never say Busted should get respect from a magazine like Kerrang! because it shouldn't – it makes me laugh when we even get a mention. This is really a separate world and it's a world I really want to get stuck into."

**FIGHTSTAR RELEASE A FIVE-TRACK EP CALLED 'SWIMMING IN THE FLOOD' ON FEBRUARY 28.**



Nice to see Charlie has a sense of humour when it comes to those eyebrows...



Fightstar: (from left) Charlie Simpson, drummer Omar Abidi, guitarist Alex Westaway and bassist Dan Haigh





Jon Davis: welcome to the dark side...

from: Jonathan Davis (Korn)

To: Kerrang!  
Sent: January 5, 2005  
Subject: ABOUT ME

1. HOW'S THINGS?  
>> I'm good, chilling.
2. WHERE ARE YOU AND WHAT CAN YOU SEE OUT OF THE WINDOW?  
>> I am in my bus looking out at I think a military fucking instalment near to San Diego.



3. WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU PUT IN YOUR MOUTH?  
>> A spoon, I think.

4. WHAT RUMOUR WOULD YOU LIKE TO START ABOUT YOURSELF?

>> That I'm secretly having an affair with my assistant.

5. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE A GIRL FOR THE DAY?

>> I would fuck my pussy all day to see what it feels like.



6. WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF?  
>> Fuck, I love myself.

7. WHAT'S YOUR SEXUAL FANTASY?

>> I have fulfilled all of them. I have none.

8. WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A GIRL/BOYFRIEND?

>> Innocence, but a whore.

9. WHAT ARE YOU OBSESSED WITH?

>> I am obsessed with anything that's dark. The dark side of human nature.



10. WHAT WOULD SURPRISE PEOPLE ABOUT YOU?

>> That I like Duran Duran.

11. WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE A DRINK WITH?

>> Probably Jim Morrison.

12. WHAT WAS THE LAST LIE YOU TOLD?

>> I think the last lie I told was about Santa Claus, to my son.

13. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SWEAR WORD?

>> Fuck. Or motherfucker.

14. WHAT SONG DO YOU WANT PLAYED AT YOUR FUNERAL?

>> Any Led Zeppelin tune.

15. HAPPINESS IS...

>> Going to bed at night and just putting my head on the pillow and going to sleep.



Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong: "Can anyone lend me a fiver?"



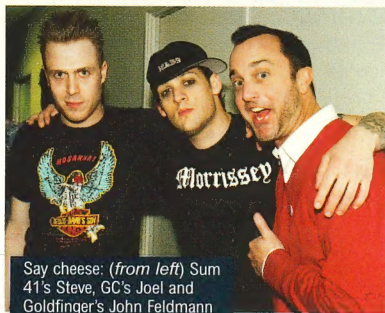
## ROCK 'N' ROLL CHRISTMAS

KROQ SHOW BOASTS GALAXY OF STARS AT ANNUAL BASH

VELVET REVOLVER, Green Day, Muse and Sum 41 all performed live at the 'KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas' concert in Los Angeles on December 11 and 12.

The annual event, sponsored by Los Angeles rock radio station KROQ, was held at the 6000-capacity Universal Amphitheater. The Saturday night concert featured sets from Muse, Jimmy Eat World, Interpol and The Music. The following evening bill was full of extra special Christmas surprises. Green Day chose to ignore their legacy of hits and instead performed their 'American Idiot' rock opera in its entirety to the delight of the crowd. Not to be outdone, Incubus invited two members from legendary '80s rockers The Police onstage. Drummer Stewart Copeland and Andy Summers helped the California rockers perform cover versions of the classic songs 'Roxanne' and 'Message In A Bottle'. Good Charlotte, My Chemical Romance, Papa Roach, Social Distortion, The Used and Velvet Revolver also performed at the festive show.

Santa, however, could not attend the star-studded bash due to "prior commitments"...



Say cheese: (from left) Sum 41's Steve, GC's Joel and Goldfinger's John Feldmann



Muse's Matt and Dom cosy up to SOAD's Serj (centre)



My Chemical Romance's Gerard Way (left) has clearly had one eggnog too many...

## "WE DON'T MIND PEOPLE LAUGHING AT US!"

### GOOD CHARLOTTE PROVIDE FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN NEW VIDEO

NO-ONE CAN accuse Good Charlotte of being po-faced. The Maryland pop-punk five-some have dressed up as their favourite snacks in the video for their forthcoming new single, 'I Just Wanna Live'.

The clip's storyline follows a fictitious band called The Food Group and depicts the pitfalls of an overnight chart success: sex scandals, lip-synching disasters and soulless

celebrity parties included...

"Good Charlotte are in this awkward place in pop culture," pizza-suit-wearing singer Joel Madden tells Kerrang!. "We're this band that falls into weird camps. We have a foot in the pop world and a foot in where we come from – the Warped Tour and punk scene."

"It's an awkward place to be and we wanted to make fun of it and the whole bullshit

surrounding the celebrity of pop culture," adds guitarist Benji, who appears as a corn-on-the-cob. "We don't know where we fit into that, but we wanted to laugh at ourselves. You can't take yourself too seriously and we don't mind people laughing at us, either."

Good Charlotte's single, 'I Just Wanna Live', will be released on January 24 through Sony/BMG.



Joel gets a, er, pizza the action



Tasty: Joel gets a grilling



Fresh meat!: GC have a go at scandal



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# INTRODUCING...

New music heading your way

## UNDEROATH

The Devil doesn't necessarily have all the best tunes...

"**OUR GOAL** is to not turn into one of those bands you see on 'VH1: Behind The Music,'" says Underoath keyboardist Chris Dudley. "There's a crazy lifestyle that goes on while you're on tour and, well... we're a Christian band."

But don't get the wrong idea. As the soft-spoken fan of At the Drive-In, Every Time I Die and Refused explains, this Floridian sextet's beliefs may leave them on the sidelines of backstage debauchery, but when they're onstage, their twisted slab of prog-metalcore is the only thing that matters. Dudley makes no apologies for this.

"It's not like 'We're a band and we believe in God,'" says Dudley. "It's like, 'We're a band because we believe in God'. To say anything else

kind of defeats the purpose of us doing this."

And those convictions have hardly stopped them from plying their wares alongside the likes of Coheed And Cambria, Norma Jean, and the almighty God Forbid. Put it down to nearly three years of non-stop touring which began the day they graduated high school.

"If something's happening and it's not cool with us, we'll be like, 'Hey, we're going to go over here now', and that'll be it!" he smiles. "We're a heavy band. That's really all that people need to know."

**HEAR:** 'They're Only Chasing Safety' out now via Tooth & Nail.

**MORE INFO AT:** [www.underoath777.com](http://www.underoath777.com)



Underoath: (from left) Grant Brandell, James Smith, Spencer Chamberlain, Aaron Gillespie, Chris Dudley and Tim McTague



# HOT STUFF

OBJECTS OF DESIRE...



## 'X-MEN' GAME AND XBOX

THE X-MEN'S greatest enemy, Magneto, has returned to wreak merry hell worldwide. It's up to you to recruit the likes of Wolverine, Gambit and Storm to save the world... from the comfort of your bedroom in this Xbox 'X-Men Legends' game.

We have one grand prize of an Xbox console, game and copy of the 'X-Men' film on DVD up for grabs. Two runners-up will each receive a game and DVD. To be in with a chance of winning, simply tell us:

**WOLVERINE IS A BIT LIKE A WOLF: TRUE OR FALSE?**

Call competition line **A 09065 615 110**

**WIN!**

## NOISY NEIGHBOURS REVENGE CD

DO YOU live next door to unbearably noisy neighbours whose sole aim in life, it seems, is to steal your sanity? If you answer yes, then this CD is what you need in order to wreak sweet vengeance. The 'Revenge' CD has tracks featuring the classic tracks 'Drill', 'Drums Played By A Child' and 'Domestic Squabble'. Play it loud and your neighbours will wish that they'd turned that fucking techno down in the first place. The CD costs £15 and can be bought mail order from Cubic. Call 020 7095 9399 for stockist details or log on to [www.cubicuk.com](http://www.cubicuk.com). Worth every bastard penny.



**BUY!**

Calls are charged at 50p per minute. Calls last no more than two minutes. Leave your answer, name and address. If you are under 16, remember to ask permission from the person who pays the bill before calling. Closing date for these competitions is January 11, 2005. Winners will be selected at random and notified by post.

## 6 things we didn't know last week

» There is a PORN star called Eon McKai. We bet Fugazi's Ian MacKaye is getting some really weird fan mail now. **SOURCE:** [www.buddyhead.com/gossip](http://www.buddyhead.com/gossip)

» The SHORTEST mature human was Gul Mohammed of India. On July 19, 1990, he was examined at Ram Manohar Hospital in New Delhi, India and was found to measure a height of 57 centimetres. That's four centimetres

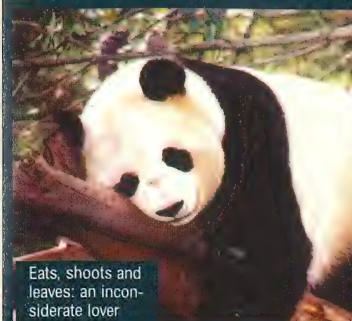
shorter than Dani Filth. Probably. **SOURCE:** [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

» Motorcyclists and passengers must wear crash HELMETS, but the rule does not apply to Sikhs wearing turbans. **SOURCE:** [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk)

» NEW YEAR'S DAY was celebrated for the first time on January 1, 45BC when the Julian calendar took effect. We bet sales of Alka Seltzer would have rocketed on January 2. Had it existed. **SOURCE:** [www.foodreference.com](http://www.foodreference.com)

» The Chinese word for PANDA is *Xiongmao*, which translates as 'Giant Cat Bear'. That just sounds like a rubbish cartoon character. **SOURCE:** [www.chinaunique.com/Panda](http://www.chinaunique.com/Panda)

» Canadian rockers SUM 41 have added a necktie to their range of merchandise. It's decorated with bombs and is sure to raise eyebrows at school and in the office. **SOURCE:** [www.bandmerch.com](http://www.bandmerch.com)



Eats, shoots and leaves: an inconsiderate lover

# TRUNK ROCK

BLINK MAN GOES ON ADVENTURE HOLIDAY WITH CAMERON DIAZ

BLINK 182's Mark Hoppus has revealed that he's just finished a project with Hollywood star Cameron Diaz.

Thankfully, Diaz is not embarking on a punk-inspired music career but she has been working with Hoppus on a pilot for a new MTV show, going under the working title of 'Tripping'.

"I just came back from a trip," explains Hoppus. "Cameron Diaz put a show together where she gets people to go on these amazing adventure trips. We went to Nepal and Bhutan and

we got to ride elephants and find wild rhino and release crocodiles into the wild.

"We went to these villages in Nepal and went to the schools there and planted trees with the kids," he adds. "It was an amazing trip. The idea of the show is to get kids excited about the environment, learning about other cultures and to get them interested in the world around them."

According to MTV, there is currently no on-air date for the show yet.



Cameron Diaz and Mark Hoppus (centre): they probably looked like this on their trip



The debut single

## You'll Never Guess Who Died Out Now

on CD and ltd ed 7"

Taken from the new album  
**'What Are You Listening To?'**  
Out Now

For more info visit  
[www.thekinison.com](http://www.thekinison.com) [www.atlanticrecords.co.uk](http://www.atlanticrecords.co.uk)  
[www.ukundercurrent.com](http://www.ukundercurrent.com)





# SCANNER

BITE-SIZE NEWS, GOSSIP AND SCANDAL...

BREAKER



South Wales metallers **BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE** have confirmed some intimate gigs as part of Kerrang!'s 'Most Wanted!' series of shows. The band play Liverpool Barfly on February 16, Cardiff Barfly 17, Glasgow Barfly 18, York Barfly 19 and London Barfly 20. Support acts will be announced shortly. Tickets for all shows are £7 in advance, except for London, where they are £8. All shows are 14 and over. To purchase tickets on-line, visit [www.aloud.com](http://www.aloud.com) or call 0870 998 8888 for more details.

## DIMEBAG KILLER'S MUM SPEAKS

The mother of Nathan Gale – the 25-year-old who shot **DAMAGE-PLAN** guitarist Dimebag Darrell dead onstage in Ohio on December 8 – has confirmed that her son had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. Mary Clark also admitted that she bought the gun for Gale that he used in his attack. "I bought him that gun. I'll never, never be able to live that part down," Clark told Columbus TV station NBC 4. She also revealed that Gale had a fixation with Pantera. "He had it in his head that those were his lyrics," she said. "And nobody was going to change his mind."

Dimebag Darrell



## BLACK METAL ARRESTS DRAMA

**SATYRICON** guitarists AO Gronbech and Steinar Gundersen have allegedly been arrested and charged with drugging and raping a woman in Toronto, Canada. The Canadian police have reported that the incident took place on the band's tour bus after the Norwegian black metallers performed a show at the Funhaus, Toronto on December 14. If found guilty, the musicians face up to 10 years in prison. At the time of going to press, Kerrang! was awaiting comment from a spokesperson.

## SHARON OSBOURNE HAS BULIMIA

**SHARON OSBOURNE** has revealed that she's unable to conquer daily bouts of bulimia even after having her stomach stapled to stop herself from bingeing on food. "It's the thing that causes most arguments [in the family]," she told 'The Daily Mail'. "We'll be at the dinner table and I'll go off and they'll say, 'Oh, here we go again'. They hate it."



Darkthrone's Fenriz: not afraid of giffhorse superstitions...

## NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

Black metal band **DARKTHRONE** have refused their nomination in the metal category of the highly coveted Norwegian Alarm Awards. Darkthrone, in the metal category for their album 'Sardonic Wrath', communicated their dissatisfaction at being nominated in an article published in Norwegian newspaper 'Aftenposten' the day after the nominees were released to the public. "We play real and honest black metal," drummer Fenriz said. "And we have no interest in being part of the glitter and showbiz side of the music industry."



## BROKEN GLASS?

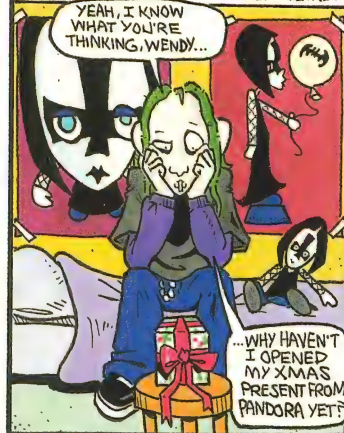
**GLASSJAW** have officially denied reports that they are splitting up. The band, who recently let go of guitarist Todd Weinstock, are currently taking an enforced break as frontman Daryl Palumbo is receiving treatment for his ongoing Crohn's Disease problems.

## SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE

**THE 'GA'GA'S** had the pleasure of hooking up with some leggy lovelies recently all in the name of shooting their new video. The band admit that the clip for their forthcoming track 'Sex' (which is released on January 31), is the best day's work they'd done in ages. "I couldn't help but feel that every time we stood in front of the camera we were ruining what would have otherwise been a perfect video!" laughs frontman Tommy. "For 14 hours of my life I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Seriously though, the whole day was so fucking cool. The girls were all amazing and it was great to actually make a proper video finally."

## PANDORA by Ray Zell

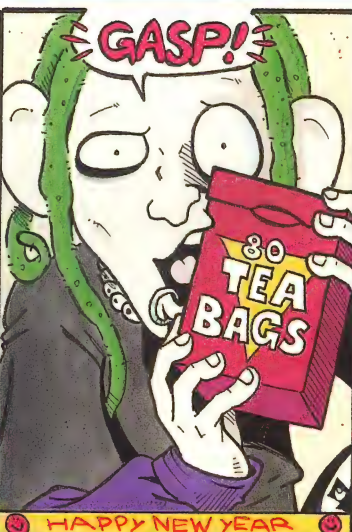
THIRTY SECONDS TO NEW YEAR'S DAY, 2005: WEK SITS IN HIS BEDROOM WITH THE DOLL OF HIS FAVOURITE CARTOON CHARACTER - WENDY WEIRD.



I'VE DONE WORK EXPERIENCE WITH HER FOR MONTHS NOW AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME. SHE HASN'T TRIED.



WHAT'S THAT? YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...







# DANGER CLIFF

\*\*\* IF YOU'RE  
NOT CALLED CLIFF  
DON'T WORRY \*\*\*

NOTHING'S WORTH  
SWEATING OVER





# MUSE

EARLS COURT, LONDON

19.12.04-20.12.04

INTRO  
HYSTERIA  
BUTTERFLIES AND HURRICANES  
NEW BORN  
SING FOR ABSOLUTION  
NEW SONG 1  
MUSCLE MUSEUM  
CITIZEN ERASED  
RULED BY SECRECY  
SUNBURN  
THOUGHTS OF A DYING ATHEIST  
TSP  
TIME IS RUNNING OUT  
PLUG IN BABY  
BLISS  
DEAD STAR  
MICROCUTS  
APOCALYPSE PLEASE  
STOCKHOLM SYNDROME

## SUNDAY

KKK

### IN THE

window of Tower Records on Sunset Boulevard in LA, there is a picture of Muse advertising the fact that the band had sold out two nights at that city's

Wiltern Theatre on December 5 and 6, letting those that don't already know into the secret that three noisy boys from the West Country have made plans to take over their country. Six thousand miles east in London, Muse are at it again: tonight and tomorrow the sold out signs are out front of the biggest room in London, as 34,000 fans gather to celebrate the fact that 2004, surely, has been this band's year.

Their ascent from nothing to *this* has been remarkable, and tonight the three of them even make a fist of appearing in a venue that might as well be named Bad Sightlines R Us. With its over-fussy security and antiquated facilities, Earls Court is not really the place where dreams come to life. But with a stage-set that looks as if it were stolen from 'Close Encounters...' (although the screens hoisted at the side of the stage are nowhere near big enough), Muse do their very best to adapt. Yet still, the truth remains – the bigger the band get the further away you're likely to be when it comes to watching them.

In the hall of fame of classic Muse concerts – Wembley Arena last year, Glastonbury this summer – this wasn't one of them. But a reasonable Muse performance is, at times, still a hell of a show. 'Thoughts Of A Dying Atheist', the single that never was from 'Absolution', is superb – a scream of a guitar solo and a dream of a melody. 'Time Is Running Out' and 'Hysteria' are similarly resounding.

Elsewhere, the group look strangely like a work in progress. 'Ruled By Secrecy' here is hampered by DAT machine trickery, only firing into life for the song's finale. And for anyone near the back of the room, the whole show has something of an impersonal air. The band look, and move, just as they always do, but here more than anywhere some kind of connection is required. Matt Bellamy is reluctant to speak to the crowd, opting instead for the kind of quietness that accompanies a first date with a choirboy. It would have been nice, at least, for him to have said a little more than "hello".

As 'Stockholm Syndrome' closes the show and 17,000 people disgorge into the night, the lesson of the last two hours becomes clear. Tonight, Muse showed that even they are human after all.

IAN WINWOOD

## MONDAY

KKKKKK

### THE STAKES

are high. After last night's muted display, those close to the band privately agree that changes need to be made to the set if Muse's year is to end in triumph rather than disappointment. They needn't have worried. Even before the band hit the stage, tonight feels totally different. The vast open spaces seem warmer and friendlier. A good-natured Mexican wave sweeps round the venue. There's a palpable buzz in the air.

And what happens when the band appear is simply astounding. They seem more relaxed, less overwhelmed by the scale of it all. Matt in particular – tonight dressed in black rather than red – appears far more at ease. The visuals are different, too. 'Space Dementia' is accompanied by a 'Star Trek'-style, onrushing, warp-speed backdrop that adds a new sense of urgency and momentum. 'Micro Cuts' is made more atmospheric by the presence of three huge full moons projected onto the back wall, throwing the band into dramatic silhouette. The set as a whole feels better paced, with 'Apocalypse Please' coming at the start, and the sole new track (as yet untitled, and different to the newie aired on Sunday) held back until the encore.

Songs that failed to engage on Sunday night take on a startling emotional resonance. 'Citizen Erased' in particular is phenomenal – a devastating fusion of epic misery and steely future-metal ferocity, its redemptive piano coda simultaneously sounding like the end of the world and the start of a new one. And 'New Born'? Holy fuck. There can be no moment in modern live music more electrifying than the bit where Matt stands up from the piano, grabs his guitar, and teases the audience with the agonising anticipation of the song's sledgehammer riff. It's like teetering on the edge of a precipice.

Indeed, there's something superhuman about Matt Bellamy – this freakish individual who can sing like Jeff Buckley, compose like Gustav Mahler, and play guitar like Eddie Van Halen. Watching him command this immense stage, his every pose greeted by piercing screams of devotion, serves emphatic notice that Muse – in case anyone had forgotten – are by some distance the best home-grown band we have. Where they go from here is anyone's guess. But it's sure to be an exciting journey.

Towards the end, during 'Blackout', Matt asks the audience to thrust their illuminated mobile phones in the air to make a bobbing sea of twinkling Christmas lights. It ought to be a grim spectacle: 17,000 people in a concrete shed, mobiles aloft – modern Britain in all its ugly, WAP-enabled glory.

But somehow, in Muse's hands, it just looks utterly, heartbreakingly beautiful.

INTRO  
APOCALYPSE PLEASE  
HYSTERIA  
TSP  
SING FOR ABSOLUTION  
MICRO CUTS  
CITIZEN ERASED  
SPACE DEMENTIA  
RULED BY SECRECY  
SUNBURN  
NEW BORN  
BUTTERFLIES AND HURRICANES  
MUSCLE MUSEUM  
BLISS  
PLUG IN BABY

NEW SONG 2  
TIME IS RUNNING OUT

BLACKOUT  
STOCKHOLM



"Wow, I can almost see the back of the venue from up here"

LUKE LEWIS



# RATED: LIVES

KKKKK INCREDIBLE

KKKK GREAT

KKK FAIR

KK POOR

K RUBBISH



The National Dandruff Sufferers  
Convention kicks off

# HYSTERIA

MUSE TRIUMPH - ON THE SECOND ATTEMPT -  
AT THEIR BIGGEST UK SHOWS TO DATE



Muse: they've got balls



## ARCH ENEMY

PLUS: THE HAUNTED,  
DARK TRANQUILLITY,  
NIGHTRAGE

THE FORUM, LONDON

17.12.04

KKKK

**IT'S BASTARD** freezing outside, and with four bands on the bill you'd expect the organisers of this show to get the doors open nice and early. No such luck, unfortunately, as the promoter's disdain for the people whose wallets they're raping rears its head. Sadly this also affects the splendid Nightrage, a half-Swedish, half-Greek melodic death metal band fronted by former At The Gates screecher Tomas Lindberg. Playing to 50 or so people would prove a dispiriting experience for many, but Nightrage are clearly enthused by the idea of spreading the word and rip through their brief but thrilling set like men on a mission.

Dark Tranquillity are another band with no time to waste. As they prepare to unleash 'Character', easily the album of their career, the recognition they've long deserved looks to be in the bag. A consummate display of skill and class from a band who will be expected to shine like this over and over again in 2005, their set marks the point in a lengthy career when Dark Tranquillity progress from respected scenesters to unstoppable standard bearers.

For The Haunted, grabbing people by the nuts has never been a problem, and there are few current bands able to summon such ferocious energy and power onstage or CD. Tonight, with the returning Peter Dolving a fiery, whirling visual focus, they look and sound invincible. A minute's silence observed for Dimebag Darrell provides a momentary calm that further emphasises the startling storm-like qualities of 'Hate Song', 'Hollowed Ground' et al. Band of the night.

The UK has really taken to Arch Enemy since Angela

Gossow became its voice and the band now seem utterly comfortable headlining venues of this size and bearing the expectations of a flourishing European metal scene on their shoulders. It's a shame, then, that whoever is responsible for the sound in The Forum tonight appears to have ears full of shit. The preceding bands certainly suffered as a result, but battled bravely and made such sonic failings an irrelevance.

Unfortunately, Arch Enemy require absolute aural clarity more than most to achieve maximum impact.

Dulled by an irritating, vague muddiness, the Swedes have to rely on charisma and the support of the crowd to make this a performance to remember. Thrillingly, they make it look rather easy. And, with rumours circulating backstage that the band are on the verge of signing a lucrative major label deal, tonight was clearly another step up the ladder to world domination.

DOM LAWSON

ENEMY WITHIN	
SILENT WARS	
BURNING ANGEL	
DEAD EYES.....	
DEAD BURY.....	
BURY ME AN ANGEL	
DRUM SOLO	
INSTINCT	BARITONE
SAVAGE MESSIAH	BARITONE
1 <sup>ST</sup> DEADLY SIN	
GUITAR SOLO	
IMMORTAL	
BRIDGE OF DESTINY	
WE WILL RISE	
HEART OF DARKNESS	
SNOWBOUND	
RAVENOUS	

Dude looks like a lady. Oh wait, she is a lady

## FRONTLINE

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

**SHARLEE D'ANGELO,**  
**ARCH ENEMY**



"I really enjoyed myself. The crowds are always insane here, and they were crazy tonight. Now it's time to drink!"

**TOMAS LINDBERG,**  
**NIGHTRAGE**



"It was awesome, man. The crowd reaction was great and I think we managed to make a few new fans."

**JONAS BJÖRLER,**  
**THE HAUNTED**



"It was a great show tonight. We're very proud of the way we played. It was a special gig, I think."

"Hands up who likes metal. Everyone? Splendid"



**RATED: LIVES**

The Status Quo medley was an odd choice of encore



# ADVANCE AND VANQUISH

SWEDEN'S METAL MILITIA  
INVADES NORTH LONDON





## THE FIGHT

THE COLLOSEUM, COVENTRY

13.12.04

KKKK

BRIT-PUNK'S BRIGHTEST HOPES CONTINUE THEIR INEXORABLE RISE.

**Y'KNOW THAT** sinking sense of dread you get when a band you love have clearly found themselves washed up in the wrong place at the wrong time and you've got to bear witness? The Colloseum is a fine venue, but on a night as cold as a witch's tit and this close to Christmas it's full of departing students, pseuds and assorted townie wankers who couldn't give a toss that one of the finest new bands in the UK are throwing down their genius in the sideroom. No matter, The Fight still emerge joyful and triumphant – if they can win over crowds as dead from the neck up as this then world domination surely beckons.

So what seals the victory? Is it Jak's powerhouse drums, always just the right side of pure hardcore aggression and diving into fills and flurries that'd make Keith Moon proud? Is it Matt and Scott's peach-perfect harmonies that reveal The Fight's immaculate pop pride – their love of the Buzzcocks and Blondie that balances out the bodyslamming aggression and twisted riff? Or is it frontman K8's star-power, searing solos and determination to

squeeze perfection out of a night most bands would simply have thrown a hissy fit about?

It's all the above and a whole lot more. The Fight have that tangible gang mentality about them. They come across as people who've grown up together, forged a love of music together. So by the time The Fight have spread their love around on 'Moved On', got a free drink from a punter during 'Stage School Kidz' and generally made a barrel load of new friends on 'Revolution Calling' you can see the converts piling up and piling into the pit.

What they're responding to during a heartstopping 'Forgotten Generation' (and a closing 'Can't Be Bothered' that damn near tears the roof off) isn't just the sheer instantaneous hook-heavy immediacy of The Fight's songs. It's the honesty within that carries through from lyrics to sound to performance.

You can't fake this shit. The Fight have it down. It's only a matter of time before you surrender.

NEIL KULKARNI

## NEUROSIS

THE FORUM, LONDON

18.12.04

KKKK

AUDIO-VISUAL CARNAGE FROM THE AVANT-METAL MASTERS.

**AFTER NEARLY** 20 years spent pushing their amps into ever more dense, apocalyptic outposts, Neurosis' live shows are now state-of-the-art displays of total sensory overload. Tonight's show is a particularly impressive spectacle. A giant disc suspended above the stage plays host to a continuous run of perfectly segued elemental motifs – from blood-red sunsets to fractal labyrinths and decomposing matter.

The projections are a welcome sight – not just because they complement the primal, organic nature of the music perfectly, but because the sold-out crowd has meant that for all but the crushed souls down at the front, that's all you're going to see all evening.

Then again, the appeal of Neurosis has never been about what's onstage (for the record, five bearded hefties who look like they should be doing your plumbing). Their gift for both oppressive heaviness and beauty has long armed their songs with a force to outstrip the sum of its parts.

A mid-set appearance by former Swans priestess Jarboe brings a rare female presence into their maelstrom of rancour and torment – but it simply serves as a prelude to the devastating lessons in intensity that follow.

CATHERINE YATES

## CAPDOWN

PLUS: TWOFOLD

ACADEMY III, MANCHESTER

09.12.04

KKKK

THE UK'S TOP SKA-PUNKS MAKE A STUNNING RETURN.

**THINK BILLY** Talent meets Poison The Well. You'd be way off the mark, but then Twofold are a difficult band to pigeonhole. Mixing shards of off-kilter noise with the purest of pop sensibilities and jerky new wave riffs, the word that readily springs to mind is unfettered. The set is eclectic without sounding disparate and, as they tear through a set laced equally with energy, aggression and top-notch tunes, you'd never guess that stand-in bassist Paul Townsend (of Hundred Reasons fame) had only a week to learn the songs.

Headliners CapDown, meanwhile, are suffering. Or at least frontman Jake Simms-Fielding's throat is. "I sound like Rod Stewart if I'm being kind to myself," he croaks from the stage. "If I'm being unkind I sound like an out of tune c\*\*t."

Luckily the crowd are on hand to skank like loons and shout all the words to favourites like 'Cousin Cleotis' and 'Faith No More'. We also get a bunch of new songs – the jarring 'Tomorrow Not Today', the raw and rhythmic 'Blood Sweat And Fears' and the riff-heavy, fantastically titled 'Big Cock' – suggesting that their forthcoming third album will mark a very special return indeed.

PAUL TRAVERS

## NO COMPLY

ARTS CENTRE, NORWICH

06.12.04

KKKKK

SOUTH-COASTERS PERPETUATE THEIR 'NEXT BIG THING' TAG.

**GIVEN THEIR** progress over the past 12 months – releasing their debut album, blowing almost every other band offstage at both the Deconstruction and Bulldog Bash festivals – you'd call this latest tour from No Comply a victory lap for 2004. Only, what with them being British, it's not that glamorous and there's nothing self-congratulatory about it.

Set-opener 'Stories' slams you sideways like a crash test dummy and, dressed in uniform black, their frontline of a saxophonist, trombone player, guitarist and bassist cut imposing figures despite their youth, leaving frontgirl Kelly to high-kick and freewheel her way through a mix that distorts her powerful vocals to a point where you're left wondering if they need to mic her up at all, her lungs seemingly made of the same stuff that supports the brass section.

Predictably for such impressive live performers, the revelation that they're all under the weather with the same cold increases the sweat and spit quota for their commanding 45-minute set without detracting from their road-honed, watertight delivery. After this, all they need for Christmas is a spot on next year's Warped Tour so they can cross the pond and show North America how punk should be done.

ALSTAIR LAWRENCE

## CANNIBAL CORPSE

PLUS: NAPALM DEATH

THE DOWNTOWN, NEW YORK

18.11.04

KKKK

THE GODS OF GRINDCORE JOIN FORCES IN NY.

**FEW BANDS** have helped shape grindcore as much as Napalm Death and Cannibal Corpse. Trends may come and go, but you know what you're going to get with a new release by either band, and as this co-headlining US tour proves emphatically, neither duo has lost a smidgen of their ferocity.

An unseasonably warm night greets the tour's stop in the New York suburbs, leaving Napalm Death singer Mark 'Barney' Greenway drenched in sweat right upon ignition. Napalm's raging set is everything that the packed crowd expected – and is over far too soon. In fact, Greenway seems to spend longer shaking hands with the blokes up front post-performance than he does actually onstage.

With the majority of the crowd exiting the venue after Napalm's set, it looks for a moment as if Cannibal Corpse will be playing to the crickets. But as they take to the stage, fans rush back in and head straight for the pit. Singer George Fisher demonstrates his mastery of 'the Araya' (ie rapidly twirling his long hair in a circle), while favourites like 'Decency Defied' exhibit a quite breathtaking level of brutality. We'll call the evening a tie between two extreme metal behemoths.

GREG PRATO



# AMERICAN HEAD CHARGE

PLUS: PANIC CELL

BARFLY, LONDON

18.12.04

KKK

METAL MANIACS FIND THEIR WINGS CLIPPED IN LONDON.

**YOU'VE GOT** to feel a little sorry for American Head Charge. Having missed the last nu-metal boat and drowned in the wake of the glut of side-parted, bespectacled emo bands that followed, watching them you're left thinking that had they been around a couple of years earlier it's perfectly conceivable that a venue the size of the Barfly – its dimensions similar to that of your average Converse box – would be hosting them merely as a secret, fanclub-only gig rather than as the London date on a UK tour.

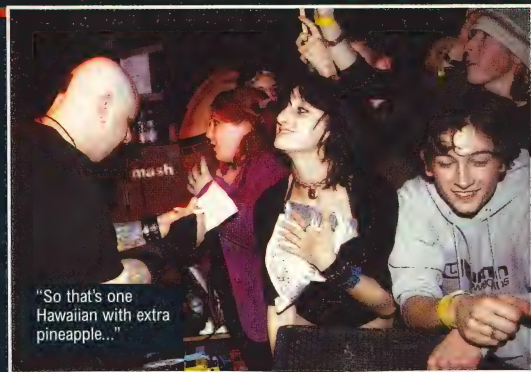
Fortunately for the American psychos, enough extravagantly attired people have braved the fiercely cold temperature tonight to sell this out, which also bodes well for Brit metalcore types Panic Cell. Though their action plan is fiendishly simple – chuggy, sledgehammer riffs fused with massive choruses – their secret lies in their enthusiastic delivery, which turns tracks like 'Save Me' into fierce noise fests. Another

fantastic string to British metal's already sturdy bow.

There's something about seeing a band as visually imposing as American Head Charge in such a basic venue (stage, PA, dancefloor), that really doesn't gel. They're a riot of weird haircuts, face paint and odd clothes, but the fact that they have to walk through the crowd to get to the stage takes away a lot of their comic book impact. The music – essentially nu-metal with ideas by the truckload – sounds awesome, particularly at such an ear-shagging volume. But it never quite manages to totally pull you in.

Throwing in some new tracks and a quick blast of Pantera's 'Walk' in among keenly received oldies, AHC can clearly be better than this, and when they return in 2005 they doubtless will be. For now, though, this was enough to show that they're still an ongoing concern.

NICK RUSSELL



"So that's one Hawaiian with extra pineapple..."



AHC's Martin Cook: "Take two bottles into the shower? Not really, no"



You know, it's customary to get changed before the gig...



Seconds later it went up his arse



The 'gay Satan' look: always a winner



Fuck knows what's going on here

Photos: Sandra Waib



IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, **FOO FIGHTERS** HAVE SURVIVED AND THE TEMPORARY DEFECTION OF THEIR SINGER, SONIC COMING BACK WITH NOT ONE ALBUM, **BUT TWO...**

WORDS: MÖRAT PHOTOS: LISA JOHNSON



## FOO FIGHTERS

TITLE: TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Expect a double CD – one disc rock and one disc acoustic. “There’s some really heavy songs and some jangly songs,” said Chris Shiflett to KI. The album is being recorded at the band’s purpose-built studios (Studio 606 is nicknamed ‘Foo Fortress’) in LA. The release date is unconfirmed but it is expected to be out by the time the band headline European festivals, including the Oxegen Festival in Ireland on July 9 and 10.

**ETA:** June on RCA.



# BUST-UPS, DOOMED POLITICAL CRUSADES WRITER AND FOUNDER. NOW THEY'RE

**INCOMING!**  
**HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005**

## THE LONG

white corridor at Studio 606 has to be seen to be believed – and even then you'd probably stand gawping for half an hour.

Admittedly, most reputable recording studios have a gold disc or two, maybe the odd platinum disc on the wall. But at Studio 606, there are literally dozens upon dozens of discs, both gold and platinum, from all corners of the Earth. Germany, New Zealand, Japan, everywhere. And while they are dedicated to various bands (there's Nirvana, there's Queens Of The Stone Age, there's Tenacious D and over there are some platinum Foo Fighters discs), all of them have been presented to just one man – the man who is currently giving us a guided tour of the place. That man is jack of all trades, and, apparently, master of them all too. His name is Dave Grohl.

"I've never had a place to put all this stuff because it always seemed funny to have it in the house," ponders Grohl as we pause in front of his favourite, the first Nirvana gold disc. "Most of the older Nirvana ones are at my mother's house."

As he explains when he continues the tour, his band Foo Fighters bought the 8,000 square foot building in the San Fernando Valley suburbs of Los Angeles about six months ago and have spent the past three and a half months turning it into their dream studio, even pitching in with the manual labour, getting their hands dirty.

It's a work in progress and you have to employ a little imagination here and there, the lounge area being an empty white room at the moment, and some of the sound booths being used for storage space. But they are rightly proud of their achievement.

"I honestly think we've managed to make one of the top 10 studios in Los Angeles," beams Grohl.

And when Dave says 'we' he means Foo Fighters as a band: drummer Taylor Hawkins, guitarist Chris Shiflett, bassist Nate Mendel and Dave Grohl.

This is very much the Foo Fighters' place; their baby. A long-term investment that is already starting to pay off.

"WE'VE ALWAYS wound up recording every one of our albums at least twice because we fuck it up the first time usually because we're not ready to go into the studio," confesses Grohl. "The second album was recorded twice; the third album we recorded three or four versions of every song before we settled on the final ones and the last album was recorded twice. So we basically thought we'd make

**BANDS SHOULDN'T LAST FOREVER. FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT WE SHOULD CALL IT QUITS."**

**Dave Grohl**

the new record here..."

"... And save a million dollars!" laughs Hawkins.

"But of course," adds Shiflett, "you'll never know if it isn't the first version... because it's our studio, so we can just pretend."

Not that Foo Fighters aren't prepared for their fifth – as yet untitled – album. Where previous records have been written in the three or four months between tours, this latest opus has been a year in the writing and will, when it's finished, be a double CD, one rock, the other acoustic. There is even talk of doing separate rock and acoustic shows.

"One of the things we're trying to do with this album," says Grohl, "is keep things simplified and keep some sort of spontaneity. It's not rocket science, but there's a lot of songs on this album that could be over orchestrated. We've got 19 songs to finish before Christmas before we start on the acoustic record and I almost look forward to the acoustic record as the next Foo Fighters

"Hey, aren't you the guy from QOTSA?" "Almost." Foo Fighters (l-r): Nate Mendel, Dave Grohl, Taylor Hawkins, Chris Shiflett





record because the rock stuff is something we've done before."

Given the unusual nature of their record deal (Foo Fighters record for their own label and licence the recordings to other labels) Grohl insists that he feels no weight of expectation.

"For me, the biggest pressure is to make the shows better and have better songs so people will have a better time," he insists.

But do they aim for a specific 'Foo Fighters sound'?

"Well, we have a lot of different sounds, which I think has been the foundation of all of our records," counters Grohl. "But then you start wondering, 'What is Foo Fighters? Is it just one thing or should it be any kind of music made by any member of the band?'. And I kind of lean towards that. I used to get caught up with worrying that something shouldn't go on the record because it doesn't sound like anything we've ever done before, but that kind of runs you into a rut and you end up getting trapped in one particular sound for the rest of your life."

"The idea of doing a double album sounds pretentious, but one of the ideas behind doing that was to cut out that middle ground. We have songs that are loud and obnoxious, and we have songs that are beautiful acoustic ballads and trying to fit those two things on the same album is tricky. I thought I'd make it easier on everybody so we can go further in each direction without it sounding strange."

**AS YET**, still, there is no finished music. A chart on the wall with a column for each track shows only the drum parts completed. But since the first version probably isn't the one you'll hear on the record it would be pointless to offer an opinion yet anyway. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Dave gets the final say on which version comes out.

"It's all Dave," says Taylor. "They're Dave's songs so really he has to have the final say. I can't have the final say on a song that I didn't write, but we all work on the song together and help arrange it."

"I don't think there's ever been a time, at least as long as I've been in the band, that there was ever a strong feeling against using whatever final version came about," adds Chris.

"It's usually pretty obvious," agrees Dave. "I mean, if you were to listen to the original version of our last record we wouldn't be sitting here talking about a new album right now. When I go back and listen to that original version it just sounds *wrong*. I'm sure there's a lot of bands who go into the studio and magic happens right off the bat, but I think with the new music that we're doing here we've proven to ourselves that we're at our best when we've really worked and prepared something to its full potential. I can hear the album in my head now; I can imagine the album, whereas that doesn't happen with any record we've made before until it's almost finished."

Like I said, it's impossible to comment on the new record without hearing any of it, but you can't help wondering if Grohl has been influenced by his work outside Foo Fighters, most notably with his metal side-project Probot and his work on Killing Joke's self-titled album: Foo Fighters seemed to suddenly get a lot heavier, particularly on tracks like 'All My Life', after Grohl had played drums for QOTSA.

"I think with the last record the one thing that influenced me from being with Queens Of The Stone Age was just my love of sheer volume," allows Dave. "So that came up on the last record a bit more than it may have had I not done that. With this album, with us having toured for a year and a half with a set-list that were screamers every night, it made me realise that that's what I love to do and sometimes that's what we're best at. This album's a collection of music that we wanna play every night and we tried to do that with the last record, but it only happened with five or six songs."

**SPEAKING OF** Queens, there were very strong rumours that Foo Fighters were over and that Dave would be joining QOTSA on a permanent basis. Anyone lucky enough to witness Grohl playing for them, as I did at the one-off Troubadour show, could see that he was in his element. It was his first time behind a drum kit since Nirvana and he was enjoying every moment of it. Maybe a little too much... How worried were the rest of Foo Fighters at that point?

"There was a moment of like, 'Oh well, that's over'," admits Hawkins. "We'd done that first version of the last record and it didn't work, so we were like, 'Do we have another good Foo Fighters record in us?'"

"But the moment for me, when I knew it was gonna be okay, was Coachella festival - Dave got up onstage and was just the best frontman in the world. He has to play drums because that's what he is first and foremost in a way, but as soon as we played that gig I knew Dave had to do this, too."

Shiflett: "Yeah, at the rehearsals for Coachella we had a big argument blow out..."

Hawkins: "Well, me and Dave did!"

Shiflett: "Yeah, but we got to sit and listen!"

Grohl: (*To Kerrang!*) "Have you seen 'Some Kind Of Monster'?"

Shiflett: "I think the only person who didn't think it was gonna be the end was Dave!"

There is a brief expectant pause, the merest glimmer as all eyes turn to Grohl.

"Wellllll..." says Grohl, and then it all comes out like some weird confession. Grohl speaks slowly, but barely pauses for breath.

"There was a moment when I thought, 'Well, that was fun and we've had a good run at the thing'. I've always thought that bands shouldn't last forever, there's always an expiration date. So, yeah, for a minute I thought we should call it quits and end it on a high note. But there's a lot more to being in a band than just being in a band. It's such a big part of your life and at that time the band was our life and it had been my life for eight or nine years. I know it's a clichéd analogy, but it's like a marriage, an unspoken foundation, and it's something you know you can rely on. Even if you're not there doing it every day, just knowing it's there in the back of your mind sort of props you up and keeps you going."

"When I was out with QOTSA I felt like I was losing some of that and it didn't feel right; I didn't feel solid or balanced," Grohl continues. "To me the band is more than just making records. The studio represents what I love about the band because we can hide away and shut ourselves off from the outside world. Even if we don't go out on tour for a year and we don't see each other every day, I really feel like some of my closest friends are the guys in the band. I don't go looking for new friends or new family because I have them here. Playing with Queens was great and I've known those guys for a long time, but if there's any band that you can dip your toes into and then run away it's QOTSA."

Clearly the rest of the band are hearing this for the first time.

"It's always funny when we do an interview because these are the times when we get to actually hear what people felt about things," says Hawkins finally. "I mean, we talk but you don't say, 'So, how did you feel when Dave went off to do Queens?'. It's almost like therapy!"

He pauses. Smiles.

"Do you wanna be our life coach?"

**BUT IF** one thing is abundantly clear it's that Foo Fighters are in no need of therapy or a life coach. Sure, Dave is the most talkative of the four and

## "WE WERE LIKE, 'DO WE HAVE ANOTHER GOOD FOO FIGHTERS RECORD IN US?'" Taylor Hawkins

"They've seen too much... Seize them!"



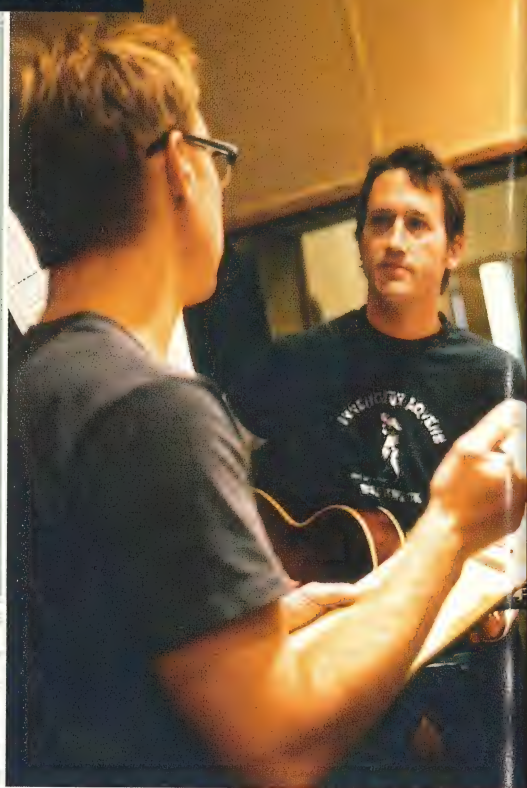
there's a natural tendency to aim questions at him, but you always get the feeling he's putting across the collective viewpoint rather than just his own. For instance, when Dave talks about supporting the John Kerry campaign in the recent disastrous US elections, he is very obviously speaking for the band as a whole.

"I went out on the John Kerry campaign and tried to help them out because I really believed in getting Bush out of office," says Grohl. "And it was really inspirational because you'd see tens of thousands of people gathered together with the common idea and will to make things better. We did a lot of stuff with the campaign, just travelling around through Middle America and seeing people who really needed to be rescued."

In what way?

"There's hundreds of ways," says Grohl. "From trying to get their kids home from war, to figuring out some sort of healthcare system, to trying to get married. But rather than focus on the specifics it's just that simple

"Hope you like my new direction."  
"Not really, no"





"Those? Oh, I keep meaning to take them to the car boot sale"



KI writer Morat in the Foo Fighters' nerve centre



"... but I got him like this, until he agreed not to join Queens"



Dave Grohl: The Homer Simpson Years...

Control Room	Big Room	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in Cloud</li> <li>Cloud</li> <li>flooring to access panels out + install hardware on access panels</li> <li>Band</li> <li>Fort</li> <li>strips + tack rail for carpet on wall</li> <li>glued to walls</li> <li>soffit</li> <li>frames for walls + soffit</li> <li>sliding door</li> <li>lighting on cloud</li> <li>wooden boxes + windows</li> <li>Back cloud up + installed holes everywhere</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Bass Trap</del></li> <li>Save anything - drink part</li> <li>Clouds</li> <li>Redwood CR Exterior</li> <li>Patch Panels</li> <li>Caulk holes Every where</li> <li>Reducer for Ramp</li> <li>alot time to thank Dave for doing a GREAT JOB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patch for</li> <li>herring st</li> <li>200 discs</li> <li>Fabrics for</li> <li>Giant Car</li> <li>install to</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foo Crew land</li> <li>mezzanine</li> <li>Forklift</li> <li>methamphetamine highballs</li> <li>loose cal shade chicks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machine Room</li> <li>lighting?</li> <li>Dimmer - cheap style.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ST</li> <li>Flooring</li> <li>Trim</li> <li>shelves</li> <li>library</li> <li>keg?</li> <li>RANDOM</li> </ul>



need or passion to make change and make things better. I'm not a political person, but I was moved by a lot of what's happened in the last year and a lot of the lyrics on the new record have to do with passion and courage and fighting the good fight, standing up for things you believe in. But in a roundabout way. It's not a political record. It has more to do with human reaction to what happened before and after the election. It's more personal politics."

Naturally, Foo Fighters weren't exactly chuffed on November 3rd when they discovered that Bush had just been given another four years in office.

"We were all pretty upset," says Grohl, frowning. "That was a bad day. One of the things I thought was that if Bush gets re-elected the first thing we'll do is riot, smash shit up and make a big statement and that our songs would be angry Rage Against The Machine ballads.

"But then I thought that if there's anything people would want to listen to then it would be songs with some sort of message of hope or positivity. Pissed off as I am, you have to deal with what you've got."

"It's gotta get a lot worse before people realise that they've got to put aside their religious beliefs or whatever for a better life," reckons Shiflett. "When your children can't breathe and you can't eat the fish out of America's lakes and you don't have a job, then maybe you'll realise how bad these people are!"

But do they think music can change anything?

## "I CAN IMAGINE MAKING ALBUMS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME..."

**Dave Grohl**

"Some of my fledgling political ideas came from music," says Mendel quietly – it's the first and only time he speaks during the interview. "I learned a lot of my philosophies from punk rock when I was growing up or I felt a solidarity with them because there was a sense of community there. I learned a shitload from Crass."

"Maybe it's not music changing something," shrugs Hawkins, "but younger people are far more tolerant. If you look at the breakdown in this last election, the youth of America were the only ones that voted in favour of Kerry by a pretty wide margin. So as those people grow up, in 20 or 30 years it will be a very different culture we live in."

**FOO FIGHTERS** seem to exude this kind of optimism and confidence. Perhaps it's because Hawkins has recently got engaged and Shiflett has had a baby (well, his partner has...), but everything about them seems to be forward looking right now. In March 2002 a Kerrang! cover story quoted Dave Grohl saying he was happier than he had been for as long as he could remember. And now?

"I'm happier now than I was then!" he beams. "Because with every record we've ever made I always imagined that it would be our last album! I always thought that would have been enough. Having done the whole Nirvana thing, gone out and done Foo Fighters records and played with people like Queens and done all the things that I've done, I thought it would be enough and I could then begin a normal life."

How did you figure that one?

"I don't know!" he laughs – one of those, 'What was I thinking?' laughs again.

"I thought one of these days this is just gonna stop and everything will be fine and I can look back on everything I've done and be really happy. I wouldn't stop making music, but I'd stop playing the game and stay at home!"

"I've always imagined that," Grohl says, slipping back into that weirdly intimate confessional mode he has. "And I've almost even wanted it like, 'When is this just gonna fucking end?'. I mean, when you go to a festival and the headliners are 22 years old and they come up to you and go, 'You were my first concert!' it's a weird feeling! One of the reasons I felt like that was because the band was my whole life and I was trying to have a life outside, but in the last couple of years we started to figure out how to make the band a part of your life rather than your entire life."

"I think that's what can make it last, so now I can imagine making albums for a long time to come."

Something tells me Studio 606 is going to need a bigger corridor...



"Tear these down, we need more gold discs, mwahahaha!"



"What's over here then? More gold discs you say? And they're all mine? Fan-fucking-tastic!"



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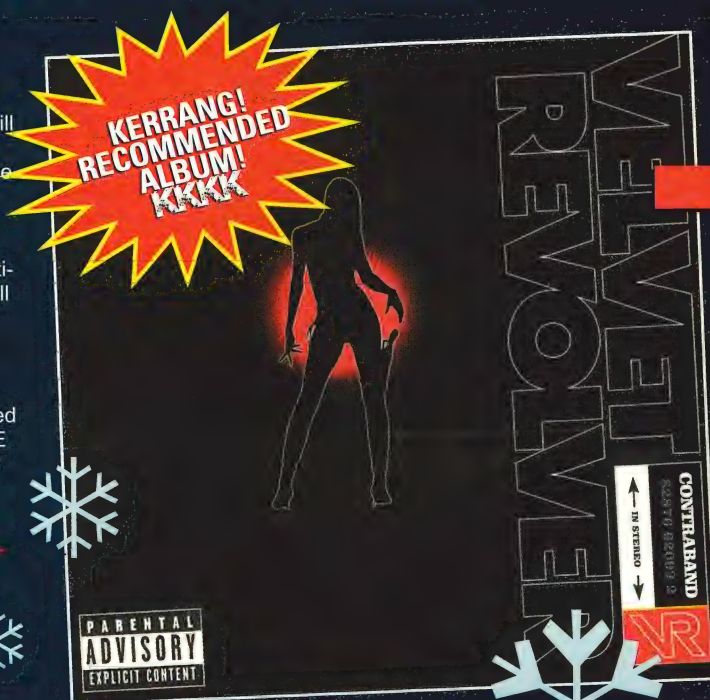
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# INCOMING!

**HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005**

## NINE INCH NAILS

**Title: 'WITH TEETH'**

**THE BUZZ:** It's been five years since rock-industrial mastermind Trent Reznor last shook the world with the epic 'The Fragile'. Much has changed in the NIN camp since then. Trent Reznor's longtime collaborators Danny Lohner and Charlie Clouser have exited stage left, the band shifted operations from New Orleans to LA and – like Killing Joke and Queens Of The Stone Age before them – NIN have (temporarily) acquired the drumming services of Mr Dave Grohl. Recorded over the summer of 2004 in LA's famous Sound City Studios, 'With Teeth' will see Reznor's band exchanging the rock-industrial soundscapes of 'The Fragile' with a more song-orientated approach, akin to their seminal 1989 debut 'Pretty Hate Machine', and 1994's 'The Downward Spiral'. In keeping with long-held rumours, Reznor has confirmed that ex-Marilyn Manson bassist Jeordie White (aka Twiggy Ramirez) will be taking up live duties in the band alongside veteran NIN drummer Jerome Dillon and newcomer guitarists Ralph Dieter and Alessandro Cortini.

**ETA:** April/May on Nothing/Interscope.

## TRENT REZNOR ON WHY NIN'S NEW ALBUM DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A TAMPON COMMERCIAL...

### HOW'S THE ALBUM COMING ALONG?

"Actually we just finished it. We're just burning CDs now and trying to sit back and have some idea of what I've done."

### HOW ARE YOU COPING WITH THE EMPTINESS?

"Well actually now I've decided to fill my days with rehearsing with my new band and preparing for the tour. From endlessly contemplating everything in the studio to trying to convert that into something exciting onstage... it's a real shift of mental energy. It's exciting times."

### WHY DID YOU LEAVE NOTHING STUDIOS FOR SOUND CITY?

"I needed a change in my life. I'd been in New Orleans for quite some time and the routine became a bit stale. I was at a new place in my life and I was ready for a change."

### WHAT CHANGED?

"I'd left my manager from the very beginning, so it was time for renovation on all levels. Initially it was because I'd asked Dave Grohl to play drums on some stuff, so we went to some of his favourite drum rooms in LA to do it. Everything fell into place. We recorded most of the record in New Orleans at Nothing Studios, but when it came time to mix we thought it might be interesting to try a different place. It all worked out as if there was a master plan."

### ARE THOSE LIFE CHANGES REFLECTED IN THE ALBUM?

"Very much so. This album started as a very theme-based thing, but I didn't want to go back to the lush soundscapes of 'The Fragile', which was instrumental soundtracks for movies that haven't been filmed yet. Thematically and lyrically the new album started very conceptually, but as I started executing it it started sounding more like good songs than a rock-opera. The songs are brothers to each other, but it's not a lyrical story. It's about waking up somewhere and you're not sure if you're in a nightmare or not,

and you're not sure what the deal is."

### ARE THERE ANY TRACK-TITLES YET?

"There's 12 track-titles, but I'll keep them under my hat for now. The album is going to be called 'With Teeth'."

### WASN'T IT GOING TO BE CALLED 'BLEEDTHROUGH'?

"Yeah, but that just wasn't the right word. It was supposed to be about different layers of reality seeping into the next, but I think some people were thinking about blood or a tampon commercial. It started to grate on me over time, and as the record shifted away from something conceptual it seemed less and less right."

### IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE UNHAPPY WITH 'THE FRAGILE'.

"Not at all. It was fun. It was a very rewarding artistic experience, but this time around my thinking was more about making a concise, song-based record. I wanted to hone my songwriting skills with melodies and hooks. It's not necessarily that much more accessible, but it was a different headspace."

### DAVE GROHL WOULD BE THE MAN TO WORK WITH IN THAT CASE.

"Yeah. There was that, and the music was getting to be a bit less layers of sound. A lot of it was more inspired by more Killing Joke and Public Image... and we got away from programmed drums so we needed someone to beat the shit out of the drums, and Dave was into it right away. It was Christmas in July."

### HE WAS THAT GOOD?

"He was great! One of the fears I have about bringing other musicians in is making sure the most important thing is not the virtuosity of the instrument but the mission of the song – the feeling being conveyed. Dave got it right from the start." (AM)

**"THIS ALBUM IS MORE ABOUT GOOD SONGS THAN A ROCK-OPERA."**

**TRENT REZNOR**

Trent Reznor: "Fun!"



## JUDAS PRIEST

**TITLE:** 'Angel Of Retribution'

**THE BUZZ:** Reunited with frontman Rob Halford after over a decade, the classic Judas Priest line-up have finished work on their first album of new material since 1990's 'Painkiller'.

"There's always a certain amount of tradition and heritage that comes with Priest music," says Halford. "So you'll get all the fierceness and the intensity you've expected, you'll get a lot of drama and a lot of adventure in the music and also you'll get a taste of our reflections on the current metal climate." Initial quantities of the album will come with a free DVD featuring live footage recorded in Spain last summer. UK fans will be among the first to hear the band's long-awaited new material in the flesh, as the original metal gods bring their world tour to the UK starting at London's Hammersmith Apollo on March 16. Support comes from legendary German hard rockers Scorpions.

**ETA:** February 28 on Sony.

## HIM

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** It's early days yet for His Infernal Majesty's follow-up to 2003's stellar 'Love Metal', but frontman Ville Valo has been steadily at work on demos since autumn 2004. 'Love Metal' overseer Tim Palmer is set to reprise his role as producer. And having signed a four album deal with Sire in the US, expectations in the Finns' camp are high. Rehearsals aren't due to begin until March at an undisclosed location in the US, fans who attended their October 16 Portsmouth show may have already heard a potential track on the album - 'Under The Rose' - which the Gothed-up frontman spontaneously played acoustically as the result of technical sound difficulties. The only other song currently nearing completion is tentatively entitled 'Drunk On Shadows'. A single release is confirmed for spring, to be followed up by the album in the autumn.

**ETA:** Autumn on Warners.

## FINCH

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The follow-up to 2002's 'What It Is To Burn' album is set to contain 14 tracks with the following titles confirmed: 'Revelation Song', 'Brother Bleed Brother', 'INK', 'Bitemarks And Bloodstains', 'A Man Alone', 'Reduced To Teeth', 'Miro', 'Insomniatic Meat', 'Hopeless Host' and 'Fireflies'. Another two songs have the working titles 'Mushroom Party' and 'Spud'. The album was produced by the band and Jason Cupp (who's engineered albums from Evanescence, Drowning Pool and The Ataris) and recorded at a number of locations including New Found Glory frontman Jordan Pundik's old home studio. Following the departure of original drummer Alex Pappas, Marc Allen, formerly of Counterfeit, is set to feature. Rx Bandits sticksman Chris Tsagakis has also contributed to at least three tracks.

**ETA:** April/May on MCA.

## ARCH ENEMY

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Following the release of their recent 'Dead Eyes See No Future' EP, a successful US tour with Cradle Of Filth, Bleeding Through and Himsa and a well received London show in December, Sweden's most shameless merchants of balls-out metal will enter their 'Dungeon Of Steel' rehearsal studio in Sweden early in 2005 to begin writing their sixth album. The new songs will be recorded later in 2005, with a release expected in the autumn. Anyone expecting a re-run of 2003's 'Anthems Of Rebellion' should think again, says vocalist Angela Gossow.

"We're kind of bored with the simplicity of the last album," she states. "We're writing lots of stuff that nobody else can play. It's super-complicated stuff. The songs are really technical and there are a hell of a lot of solos! We basically want to turn the people who are into the more simple stuff into true metal fans!"

**ETA:** Autumn on Century Media.



Judas Priest: (L-R) Ian Hill, KK Downing, Scott Travis, Rob Halford, Glenn Tipton

## THE DARKNESS

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Following their spectacular winter tour, The Darkness are taking a short break before returning to the studio to record the follow-up to quadruple-platinum debut 'Permission To Land'. New songs recently aired live include power-ballad 'Seemed Like A Good Idea', 'Dinner Lady Arms', 'Grief Hammer', 'English Country Garden', 'Buffet' and 'Greed'. Speaking at a press conference as the band headlined the Carling Festival last year, frontman Justin Hawkins promised the next album would be "just like the first one - only better".

The two songs debuted at the festival - 'Hazel Eyes' and 'Full Moon (Evening Of Love)' - are not expected to feature, however, having been dropped from the live set and reportedly dismissed by Hawkins as "shit".

The album will be produced by Ray Thomas Baker, who also produced the band's download-only release of 'Get Your Hands Off My Woman'. Barker is most famous for his work with Darkness favourites Queen.

**ETA:** Winter on Must Destroy/Atlantic.

## YOURCODENAMEIS:MILO

**TITLE:** 'Ignoto'

**THE BUZZ:** "We feel more accomplished and far more aware of what and how we're writing now," says Milo frontman Paul Mullen of the Newcastle post-hardcore crew's first full album. "It doesn't matter what happens with this record - we'll take this to our graves with us and we couldn't be happier."

Recorded at RAK Studio, London and produced by Flood (Nine Inch Nails, Smashing Pumpkins, Depeche Mode), 'Ignoto' is set to contain the following tracks: 'I Am Connecting Flight', '17', 'Titan Grip', 'Rapt. Dept.', 'Schteeve', 'Team Radar', 'Fivefour', 'Yesterday's Head', 'Empty Feat', '2-Stone', 'The General' and 'Audition/Unfinished Drawings Of Cats'. The title was inspired by Mullen's visit to caves in Rome where the Nazis had executed a number of Jews and certain Christians during the war. Many of the bodies were never unidentified and the graves are marked 'Ignoto', meaning 'Unknown'. The album will be preceded by a new 'milo EP, 'Rapt. Dept.', on January 31. It will feature the tracks 'Rapt. Dept.', 'Awake/Sleep', 'Athletes And Tourists' and 'One Ninja'.

**ETA:** May on Fiction.



# INCOMING!

HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005

## GUNS N'ROSES

**TITLE:** 'Chinese Democracy'

**THE BUZZ:** Another year and once again the 'Will it, won't it?' rumours resurface concerning the release of one of the longest-delayed albums in rock's history. GNR began working with producer Sean Beavan in late '98: early in 2004 they were still recording at The Village Recording Studios in LA with producer/engineer Caram Costanzo and ProTools engineer Eric Cadieux. According to bassist Tommy Stinson, the mastering process was due to begin last November. Songs that have already been played live include 'Chinese Democracy', 'The Blues', 'Madagascar' and 'Riyadh And The Bedouins'. Film composer Marco Beltrami has also said that he was asked to provide orchestral arrangements for the songs 'Seven', 'Leave Me Alone', 'General' and 'Thyme' in 2002. The band's current line-up is Axl Rose (vocals/guitar), Dizzy Reed (keyboards), Tommy Stinson (bass), Brain (drums), Robin Finck and Richard Fortus (guitar). Whether they'll all still be there when the album hits the shelves only Axl knows.

**ETA:** Spring on Geffen.

## LIMPBIZKIT

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The 'bizkit have been holed up in a plush Californian studio for the past couple of months recording their fifth studio album with über-producer Ross Robinson... who, after recording the band's debut album, 'Three Dollar Bill Y'All', has spent the past few years claiming nu-metal was creatively dead. Also back in the fold is guitarist Wes Borland. Speaking of his return to the band he quit in 2001, the guitarist said: "There's a chemistry here that I haven't found anywhere else. There's an intention and electricity that exists which is bigger than the individual members, despite their differences."

Although tight-lipped about song specifics, frontman Fred Durst claims the album is "so fucking heavy it hurts". In a post on the band's website he said: "I have found my favourite limpbizkit album and you have never heard it. From beginning to end it is relentless."

**ETA:** Spring on Interscope.

## TURBONEGRO

**TITLE:** 'Babylon Forever'

**THE BUZZ:** Norway's premier punk mentalists are currently putting the finishing touches to their new album, the follow-up to 2002's Norwegian Grammy Award-winning 'Scandinavian Leather', in an undisclosed Oslo studio. The band are working with producer (or "turd polisher" as they call him) Steve McDonald who has previously worked with Beck and Redd Kross. Songs due to feature include 'City Of Satan', 'Wasted Again' and 'Blow Me (Like The Wind)'. "We've got 11 hits, all of them beautifully negative switchblade serenades," states guitarist Euroboy. This is the third and final instalment of the band's apocalypse trilogy -

## SATYRICON

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Following the huge success of their 2002 'Volcano' album, Norway's premier flyers of the black metal flag will return with the release of their sixth full-length album late in 2005. Currently untitled, the album will be produced by frontman Satyr Wongraven and will feature the band's core line-up of Wongraven and drummer Frost.

"We will start working on the new album as soon as we've finished the US tour," Satyr tells Kerrang!. "As always I'm very focussed on Satyricon and producing the best record possible. We're hoping to have it finished by the end of the summer so it should be released in the fall." A full European tour is expected to follow the release of the album. Following a recent deal with System Of A Down guitarist Daron Malakian's eatURmusic imprint, a US release is also expected by the end of 2005.

**ETA:** Autumn on eatURmusic/Columbia.

including 'Scandinavian Leather' and 'Apocalypse Dudes'. Bassist Happy Tom will also be appearing on the debut album by Scum - a punk/black metal 'supergroup' of Amen singer Casey Chaos, ex-Emperor drummer Faust, ex-Emperor/Zyklon guitarist Samoth, and Mindgrinder guitarist/vocalist Cosmocrator. No release-date for Scum's debut has yet been set.

**ETA:** April on Burning Heart.

## ...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD

**TITLE:** 'Worlds Apart'

**THE BUZZ:** The Austin, Texas post-rockers follow up 2003's 'The Secret Of Elena's Tomb' EP with an album inspired by baroque music and Victorian England. "I took a course on Victorian England," explains guitarist Conrad Keely. "I was fascinated with Queen Victoria and what she symbolised, a sense of stability. Their sense of detail and ornament is derided by modernists. It's sad." The last ...Trail Of Dead album with now-departed bassist Neil Busch, it was recorded with longtime producer Mike McCarthy. Tracks include 'Overture', 'Will You Smile Again For Me', 'Worlds Apart', 'Summer 91', 'And The Rest Will Follow', 'Caterwaul', 'Classic Art Showcase', 'Let It Dive', 'Russia My Homeland', 'All White', 'The Best', 'City Of Refuge'. The title-track, a fearsome attack on celebrity ('Look at those c\*\*ts on MTV, with their cars and cribs and rings and shit') is out as a single in February.

**ETA:** January 31 on Interscope.

## FEEDER

**TITLE:** 'PUSHING THE SENSES'

**THE BUZZ:** Recorded over nine months at London's The Crypt, RAK and Air studios and produced by long-time collaborator Gil Norton, 'Pushing The Senses' features the following tracks: 'Feeling A Moment', 'Bitter Glass', 'Tumble And Fall', 'Tender', 'Pushing The Senses', 'Frequency', 'Morning Life', 'Pilgrim Soul', 'Pain On Pain', 'Dove Grey Sands'.

Feeder will kick off their UK tour in Belfast on March 22.

**ETA:** January 31 on Echo.

## WEEZER

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Having scrapped a bunch of songs recorded from December 2003/January 2004, work on Weezer's fifth album has been further delayed by always unpredictable frontman Rivers Cuomo's decision to return to college for another foray into further education. Since summer 2004, bandmates guitarist Brian Bell, bassist Scott Shriner and drummer Pat Wilson have been working from Cuomo's original demos, leaving space for the singer's vocal parts. As yet, no album or song titles have emerged but the band have described their mood while recording as "Vegan, poetic and shrilpy", whatever that means. Despite the lack of information, the band have promised that 2005 will be "Weeztastic". Although, given their previous reliability, nothing is definite.

**ETA:** Spring on Geffen.



Satyr (left) and Frost: studio tans



## GRANT NICHOLAS ON SONGWRITING, SUCCESS AND HIS LOVE OF ROCK...

### HOW PLEASED ARE YOU WITH 'PUSHING THE SENSES'?

"When you make albums you're never going to think they're perfect because there's always something you'd do differently next time, but I really believe in it and we're feeling good about it as a band. I had a definite idea how I wanted this album to sound and it came out very close to that original vision."

### WAS THERE A LOT OF PRESSURE THIS TIME OUT TO MATCH THE SUCCESS OF 'COMFORT IN SOUND'?

"Deep down I'm sure it was on my mind a bit, but I wasn't thinking that I had to stick to any formula. We've been quite lucky as a band because we've stuck with the same small independent label that we've grown with and we've always been able to make the music we want. They're obviously pleased if you have hits, but we didn't have the record company hassling us. There was probably more pressure on me as a writer, not to be more successful but to write something better and try something a little bit different."

### YOU WORKED WITH PRODUCER GIL NORTON AGAIN - WHAT DOES HE BRING APART FROM KNOWING WHICH KNOBS TO PRESS?

"He brings Jameson's whiskey. No, he's just good to have around - he's a really good producer, he understands the band chemistry and he understands me as a writer and the fact that I have my own thoughts about what the production should be like. He's only made three albums with one other band and that was the Pixies so he doesn't do it very often."

### COULD YOU TALK US THROUGH THE SONGWRITING PROCESS?

"This time round I wrote some stuff on keyboards, because there are a few songs

with piano on the new album and also just because I wanted to do something different. I write pretty much 98 per cent of Feeder stuff on acoustic guitar or guitar in general and then I go and demo them, which I've been doing a lot more since Jon (Lee, drummer) died. We're still building on that, what we used to have as that three-piece. We do still do it as a band sometimes, we'll do pre-production or kick a song around, but in general I find I need to have a clearer picture by doing it on my own first.

"I wouldn't say the record as a whole has a concept, but to keep it on simple terms it really covers life - stuff that pretty much everyone would experience or deal with in their lives. There's obviously relationship stuff, there are some darker songs on the album still, but there are also more optimistic songs like the title-track, 'Pushing The Senses'. The older you get the more you experience so for me it gives you that much more to write about."

### 'PUSHING THE SENSES' IS QUITE A MELLOW ALBUM - WOULD YOU SAY IT'S A STEP AWAY FROM FEEDER'S ROCK ROOTS?

"Not really, no. There are a few more mellow songs on there, some of the piano stuff like 'Frequency' and 'Dove Grey Sands', but we've always had songs like that even when we started - we had songs like 'High' and acoustic songs like 'Forgive'. If you'd heard the demos we got signed with originally there was a lot more acoustic and experimental stuff, so I'm not moving away from rock, but you can't force it and I'm not going to put heavy guitars in there just for the sake of it. I love rock music, I grew up with it, but we've done five albums now and as a band you just have to try new things. You're right that it's nowhere near as heavy as our first album, but these were the best songs we came up with this time round and I'm definitely not moving away from rock. Who knows, the next album might be back to the heavy stuff again." (PT)



**"I'M NOT GOING TO PUT  
HEAVY GUITARS IN THERE  
JUST FOR THE SAKE OF IT."  
GRANT NICHOLAS**

Feeder: (L-R) Taka  
Hirose, Grant Nicholas,  
Mark Richardson



# INCOMING!

**HOT** ALBUMS FOR 2005

SOAD: (L-R) John Dolmayan, Daron Malakian, Serj Tankian, Shavo Odadjian







SYSTEM OF A DOWN

# THE SURFALTING

## THE MINDFUCKING PROTEST ROCKERS ARE BACK WITH A DOUBLE DOSE OF ODDBALL METAL

WORDS: MÖRAT PHOTOS: LISA JOHNSON

**'MY COCK is much bigger than yours!'**

You can't help but crack a smile as the first line of 'Cigaro', a brand new track from the forthcoming System Of A Down opus 'Mesmerize/Hypnotize', blasts from the speakers of the band's Burbank, Los Angeles recording studio.

As opening gambits go, it's an attention grabber to say the least; funny, provocative and instantly recognisable as another slice of oddball genius from one of the world's most innovative rock bands.

It's been three years since the release of their brilliant, five million-selling 'Toxicity' album, and although we had the 2002 outtakes record 'Steal This Album!' to tide us over, it seems like System Of A Down have been away for way too long. Not that the band have been slacking – 'Mesmerize/Hypnotize' is, in fact, a double CD that will be released as two separate albums ('Mesmerize' and 'Hypnotize', in case you hadn't guessed) six months apart; the first in early 2005. Which gives them an unhealthy chance of having the album of the year.

**TODAY THE** band – vocalist Serj Tankian, bassist Shavo Odadjian, guitarist Daron Malakian and drummer John Dolmayan – are gathered together to do the first in what will inevitably be a tidal wave of press. It's the calm before the storm, something the band are obviously mentally gearing up for, sometimes the first time they've tried to express their thoughts on the music to anyone outside the band.

"It's trying to make mental sense out of art which is not necessarily mental," explains Serj, noticeably thinner than last time we saw him, but still radiating the same warmth. "People want to know certain things, but you want to be able to do it in a way that's true to you and sometimes you haven't even thought about it. For the sake of interviews I was trying to go through the songs and find common denominators or things that people were going to ask and I realised that a lot of the songs are very critical; critical of society or a situation or so many different things.

"But we've always been kind of critical. There's a lot of weird stuff too! A lot of bands have social and political commentary, but I think our presentation in making it more fun makes it more accessible."

Right now, the band's task is made a little easier by the fact that there are only three finished tracks for us to pore over: the aforementioned 'Cigaro', 'Hypnotize' and 'Kill Your Rock 'N' Roll'. However, the typical SOAD twist means that no one song is just about one subject and the response to any question can go off on a seemingly random tangent before you can see the whole picture. Interviewing System Of A Down is like staring at one of those magic eye pictures that changes and shifts depending on how you look.

"I guess artists are the same way," nods Serj. "Someone will go 'Wow, that's a mountain!' and they'll go, 'Well, actually it's a woman's body, but I guess it could be a mountain'."

The one main difference on 'Mesmerize/Hypnotize' is that Daron Malakian, always the band's main songwriter in musical terms, has been writing far more lyrics and providing far more vocals.

"I've always been able to sing, but the songs never called for it before," he explains. "I usually just give the songs what they want, and this time around my parts were naturally fitting themselves into the songs. I could just tell when I was writing the songs

## SYSTEM OF A DOWN

**TITLE: 'HYPNOTIZE/MESMERIZE'**

**THE BUZZ:** When not busying themselves starting record labels (Daron Malakian's eatURmusic imprint) or drawing attention to global human rights abuses (Serj Tankian, via the Axis Of Justice group) rock's favourite Armenian nutjobs have been working on the follow-up to 2002's odds-and-sods collection 'Steal This Album!' since the autumn of 2003. Now they're looking to release not one, but two albums in 2005. The albums will be released via Rick Rubin's American Recordings at different times, several months apart, during 2005. "We didn't chase this idea, it chased us," claims guitarist Daron Malakian. "Doing a two-album set never entered into our thought process. But when we looked at all the songs we realised we had two albums' worth of really great songs." Song titles set to feature include 'Cigaro', 'Hypnotize' and 'Kill Your Rock 'N' Roll'.

**ETA:** The first album will emerge in spring, the second in the autumn on American Recordings.





Harmless fun: supergluing photographers to the ceiling keeps SOAD sane during recording

where my parts were and where Serj's parts were. I didn't wanna overdo my parts in the songs, but I guess it's what we've evolved to. Sometimes I won't present the vocal idea, I'll just let Serj sing it and see what happens. If it's better than my idea then I'll go with it or I'll sing him my idea and we'll both come to an agreement and mix ideas. I bring in the backbone of the song for the most part, but I'll leave a lot of room. I'm not the kind of guy that says, 'This is how I have it in my head and it's the only way it's gonna be.'

Malakian's head is, it must be said, a weird and wonderful place. Before you even *consider* asking about his lyrics, take a peek inside... you might not be quite the same when you re-emerge. For instance, to attain a particular guitar sound, Malakian wallpapered the studio with guitars so that when he played a note in the middle of the room, the strings on every guitar vibrated to create a new sound. An average mind, he admits, just doesn't think of such things.

Malakian, he will also confess, questions everything. He finds the idea of applause "fascinating" – the absurdity of the very idea of people clapping their hands together to create an appreciative noise. And why, he wonders, do people queue up outside clubs when they can dance in the street? Here's another one: "If aliens landed and saw someone walking a dog, who would they think was the master?" Not the one walking behind and picking up the other's turds, that's for sure.

"It's just a simple thought and I have those little questions that maybe some people don't think," shrugs Daron. "I wonder why, I wonder what makes us do that. I'm that kind of thinker. I mean, to me television commercials are much better than any comedy. You see people dancing around selling herpes medicine going 'Who-hoo!' and I think it's funny. A really good way to understand System is that I half laugh, but I half get angry because the rest of society buys it because of what I'm laughing at and what I think is so ridiculous. I guess that's how you get politics mixed with humour mixed with everyday life."

When Malakian says he's been writing about "everything that goes into life" he really means it.

"You could say 'Hypnotize' is a political song," he ponders, "but you could also say that it's not. I remember sitting in an alley, waiting for my girlfriend in my car and the lyrics just came into my head. That song takes on a real complex matter and brings it

down to a real simple level. The lyrics say 'Have you seen the kids in Tiananmen Square?/ Is fashion the reason why you were there?' and then it goes into a chorus about waiting for my girl. It shows a chaotic world, but I like to personalise it. 'Yes, the world is crazy, but how am I a part of this?' That's just a reflection of society right now: it is a mesmerised society, whether it's propaganda for war or to buy toothpaste, it's just a hypnotised, mesmerised society."

**NOT SURPRISINGLY** the events of the past three years have been a huge influence on the band. It was merely coincidence that 'Toxicity' entered the Billboard charts at Number One the same week that

## "IF ALIENS SAW SOMEONE WALKING A DOG, WHO WOULD THEY THINK WAS THE MASTER?"

**Daron Malakian**

two jumbo jets crashed into the World Trade Center, forever changing the world as we know it. But it's no coincidence or surprise that System Of A Down choose to focus on the aftermath of that horrific day or that they do it with empathy for both sides.

"In 'Cigaro' I'm not really singing about my cock, I'm singing about an ego-based attitude that's out there," explains Daron. "Why does one person have the right to go and kill, and when another person kills he's a terrorist? Is it because I have a bigger army than you? How do we differentiate that? Some people will take it in a sexual way and some people will think about it a bit more. I've got family that lives in Iraq, but I'm not one-sided about it. I think about the young kids that are leaving [the US] and going [to Iraq] for a bullshit reason and they'll lose limbs and you think, 'Goddamn, that must be really tough to live with!'"

It's business as (un)usual for System Of A Down. Technically they took a full year off from the band, but their own unique blend of music and politics and off-kilter world views were never far away. And while they were off doing their own thing, whether it be Shavo taking bass lessons, Daron starting a record label or Serj working on his Serat side-project or learning to play the nose flute, you know that all the pieces will somehow fit together in the SOAD

jigsaw.

"I didn't feel it was necessary to shit out another record just because we had momentum," says Daron, who has written an incredible 30 songs *since* he finished writing for the new album.

"I think a lot of bands end up selling themselves out or over-exposing themselves because of that and they're afraid that no-one's gonna listen to them if they don't put out another record. I personally didn't want to make another System record until we felt like we'd got enough great songs. I still think 'Steal This Album!' was a great record. I don't think it's a lesser work. We just don't wanna make a record that's more than an hour long, which is the reason those songs didn't make it onto 'Toxicity'. I'd rather keep the albums minimal and put out good work."

And yet you're effectively putting out two new albums in the space of six months?

"That has a lot to do with how I feel about putting out long records," reasons Daron. "I don't have the attention span to listen to two albums worth of new music, the songs tend to get lost in the shuffle and it doesn't do them justice. I honestly think that if we had a society like in the '60s when people were frying on acid then it would be okay because you'd fry on acid and listen to a record eight times, but we don't have that attention span. I think it would be cool if people listened to the albums together because they will get something out of that sequence, but I'm also being realistic."

But it's not a concept album as such?

"Not in any story format because there's no concept other than the songs flow together," says Daron. "But both records feel like they belong together and they'll flow together. And at the end of the sequence I have something planned which I'm not gonna give away, but you'll see the connection at the end."

"It usually comes out sounding like System," Daron laughs. "The fact that we have that is a special thing because the band can evolve and still keep their identity. The bands I admire and respect are those that have a sound that is unique, but build on it so it's not repetitive, like Faith No More and U2. I want to shape this band so we don't shy away from where we come from, but we're not gonna keep giving you that same old thing. I wanna try new ideas whether it's with songwriting or with sound."

Keep staring at the picture. If nothing else you'll see one of the greatest rock bands on the planet. ■



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# INCOMING!

## HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005

### SLAYER

**Title:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Everyone's favourite metallic evildoers will release the follow-up to 2001's 'God Hates Us All' toward the end of 2005. This will be the first Slayer album since 1990's 'Seasons In The Abyss' to feature the band's original and definitive line-up of Tom Araya, Kerry King, Jeff Hanneman and drummer Dave Lombardo. The band have been writing new material for the past two years and are reported to have at least 12 songs ready for the new album. Fans should expect a few surprises but, according to drummer Dave Lombardo, "not that many".

"It's just Slayer," he states. "When Kerry plays a riff he gives off an energy, a vibe, and then in turn I play off of that. That's what you're gonna get. You're gonna get the songs that are different, but it's going to be a Slayer record."

**ETA:** Winter on American Recordings.



Slayer's Kerry King: Don't rub him up the wrong way

## KERRY KING SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON ASS-KICKING AND 'PHANTOM PRODUCERS'...

### WHERE'S THIS NEW ALBUM THEN, MR KING?

"We've been touring non-stop so the first time we're going to have a chance to write is next January. We actually thought we were going to start recording last year, but the tours filled up through June. It sucks because we were playing 12 new songs already by the end of last March at Dave's garage-type studio just to see where we're at, and then he went off to play with Fantômas so we couldn't do any more."

### ARE THE SONGS FINISHED?

"So far Dave and I have rehearsed a lot more than Jeff Hanneman, who works from home. When he submits a song he's pretty much done everything, drum machine, bass guitar... I'm still doing songs the same way I did 20 years ago where I throw it on a tape and hand it to someone hoping they'll run with it."

### WHY THE SETBACK?

"I don't see it as a setback really. We've had six months to step aside, so we can go back and see if we still think it's cool. It's all essentially worked out. We don't have any lyrics or song titles, but that's normal for us. I haven't worked on this stuff in so long, though. It's kind of sitting in limbo."

**IN A RECENT K! INTERVIEW JEFF HANNEMAN SAID THAT YOUR LABEL BOSS/PRODUCER RICK RUBIN WAS DELAYING**

### THIS BECAUSE HE COULDN'T FIND A DISTRIBUTOR...

"Well yeah, he was in-between record distributors. We submitted a demo to Rubin and he said, 'I don't think you're ready'. I was like, 'You're full of shit, dude'. I've played it for a number of people and they were like, 'He said that about *this*?'. He was just buying himself time. I know that's what he's doing. Don't insult who I am by saying I'm not ready because you're not ready. He never ceases to rub me the wrong way. That's no secret."

## "RIGHT NOW I DON'T WANNA BE KERRY KING, BUT WHEN WE START RECORDING I'M GOING TO GET GUNG-HO."

### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GOING WITH A DIFFERENT PRODUCER?

"I haven't wanted Rubin to do it for some time. I know he's always wanted to keep his little fingerprint on it, whether it's doing drums or the mix whatever, but I'm more adamant about not wanting to use him as a

complete producer than anyone else in the band. I just want somebody that's more involved. We didn't call him the 'Phantom Producer' for nothing..."

### WHO WOULD YOUR ALTERNATIVE BE?

"The only guy we can half-agree on as a band is Dave Sardy, who did 'Undisputed Attitude'. Whether you liked us doing punk covers or not, that record sounds great."

### SO IT'S ALL UP IN THE AIR?

"Well, it depends on who's available. Personally I want to be in the studio before Dave goes off with Fantômas again, which is ironically in April again. It works out because we all need some time off. I just want to be home - I don't want to be Kerry King, I don't want to be in Slayer - but after that I'm going to get gung-ho. As long as he's done before he goes out we can move on."

### CAN WE EXPECT DEVIATION FROM 'GOD HATES US ALL'?

"God, I hope not! I think the biggest left-field thing people are going to get is Dave performing on a Slayer record for the first time in 14 years. Paul Bostaph was a great drummer, but Dave's just a natural. There's no warm-up - he'll just take a seat and kick your ass. It's one of the most amazing things I've seen." (AM)



## THE WHITE STRIPES

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Jack White has recently been hinting that The White Stripes will be in the studio again within the next few months. According to band insiders, they are investigating studios in which to record the follow-up to 2003's 'Elephant'. Jack White's policy of never using the same studio twice and of only using original, analogue equipment means that the search is a tricky one. He has suggested he will work with singer/songwriter Brendan Benson and record at his house, which is close to White's in Detroit. It's possible that Benson will also guest on the record, and, as White will be in his hometown, the chances of other friends making appearances are high. White's speed in the studio is legendary - 'Elephant' took only two weeks to record and mix - so a Guns N'Roses-style wait for the album is not anticipated.

**ETA:** Autumn on XL.

## AC/DC

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The first AC/DC releases of 2005 will be reissues of 1995's 'Ballbreaker' album and 2000's 'Stiff Upper Lip', due to hit the shops

on January 24. As far as new material goes, back in February Fifa Riccobono, CEO of Albert Productions, confirmed that the songs were already written and the Aussie quintet are currently in the studio recording what will be their 15th full studio album. Frontman Brian Johnson recently told Italy's 'Rock Hard' magazine that the new songs have harder riffs than 2000's bluesier 'Stiff Upper Lip'. He also revealed that he is writing the lyrics for the first time since 1988's 'Blow Up Your Video'. As soon as the album does see the light of day it'll be time to bust out the old school uniforms for the lengthy world tour. Don't bet against seeing the brothers Young and co headlining one of this summer's UK festivals.

**ETA:** Winter on EastWest.

## GARBAGE

**TITLE:** 'Bleed Like Me'

**THE BUZZ:** Eighteen months in the making, Garbage will finally unveil their fourth album in April. It's set to feature the tracks 'Be My Bad Boyfriend', 'Run', 'Why Don't You Come Over', 'Guilty', 'It's All Over But The Crying', 'Sex Is Not The Enemy', 'Hanging With The Bitches', 'Why Don't You Love Me?', 'Calling All Girls', 'Honeybee', 'Bleed Like Me', 'Right Between The Eyes', 'Space Can Come Through Anyone' and 'Nobody Can Win'. As with previous albums, 'Bleed Like Me' was recorded at the band's own Smart Studios in Wisconsin, but the quartet worked with an outside producer (John King, Dust Brothers) for the first time. Butch Vig's mate Dave Grohl played drums on 'Be My Bad Boyfriend', while vocalist Shirley Manson has also recorded a duet with Marilyn Manson - aka 'Daddy Manson' in her on-line journal.

**ETA:** April on Mushroom.

## AVENGED SEVENFOLD

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The next release promises to be a point of departure for these Huntington Beach, California natives. "We're trying to get away from all this metalcore stuff,"

promises singer M Shadows. "There's so many bands doing it now and they all sound the same. It's going to be heavy but melodic, too." The fact that the singer blew out his voice at 2004's Reading and Leeds festivals also contributed to the new direction. The vocal damage required surgery, and post-op vocal training by Rod Howard - previous clients include Audioslave's Chris Cornell, Alice In Chains' Layne Staley and Axl Rose. No song titles have yet been set for the album - the band's first for Warners - but the new material is described by Shadows as "Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas" meets the desert with this crazy heavy metal undertone. Production will again be handled by Mudrock, who worked on the band's 'Waking The Fallen' album.

**ETA:** Autumn on Warners.

## AMERICAN HEAD CHARGE

**TITLE:** 'The Feeding'

**THE BUZZ:** Despite the success of 2001's 'The War Of Art' album, American Head Charge have had a turbulent and calamitous few years, with various band members succumbing to drug addiction and record company conflicts leading to the Minneapolis residents' departure from Rick Rubin's American Recordings imprint. Now signed to Nitrus/DRT, the sextet are back with a new line-up and a new album titled 'The Feeding'. Described by bassist Mr HC Banks III as "a constant battle between order and chaos", the album sees the band strip their sound down to the basics: pounding riffs, bellowed vocals and scream-along choruses. Produced by Greg Fidelman - who has previously worked with Slipknot, Jet, Life Of Agony and Johnny Cash - the full track-listing is 'Loyalty', 'Pledge Allegiance', 'Dirty', 'Ridicule', 'Take What I've Taken', 'Leave Me Alone', 'Walk Away', 'Erratic', 'Fiend', 'Cowards' and 'To Be Me'.

**ETA:** February 14 on DRT.

## MILLION DEAD

**TITLE:** 'Harmony No Harmony'

**THE BUZZ:** 2004 was a busy year for the London rockers... and not just because they clinched their second consecutive K! Chrimbolympics title! Along with a slot at Austin, Texas' massive SXSW festival, the band toured the UK extensively in support of their 'I Gave My Eyes To Stevie Wonder' single, and saw the replacement of co-founding guitarist Cameron Dean with ex-Abjure/Palehorse four-stringer Tom Fowler. 2005 will see the quartet releasing their follow-up to 2003's five K-rated debut 'A Song To Ruin' album. Produced by Mark Williams (yourcode-name: milo/SikTh) at London's Battery Studios, the album will draw heavily from the band's Black Flag and Sonic Youth influences. But while Fowler has pulled the band in a slightly heavier direction, tracks like 'Livin' the Dream', 'Engine Driver' and 'Father My Father' promise to see the band following a "more melodic and cohesive" route.

**ETA:** February on Xtra Mile.

## ALKALINE TRIO

**TITLE:** 'Church And Destroy'

**THE BUZZ:** Matt Skiba's Chicago-bred, black-hearted punks had planned to have the follow up to 2003's 'Good Mourning' album done and dusted by now. Those plans changed when the singer/guitarist broke his wrist in a skateboarding fall in October. Happily, before going arse over tit, Skiba (with the valuable assistance of co-songwriter/bassist Dan Andriano) had already penned some 15 new tracks. The Trio will enter a LA studio, with producer Jerry Finn (AFI/Sum 41), to commit the songs to tape just as soon as Skiba can shed his wrist cast. 'Sadie', from the band's split EP with One Man Army may re-appear on the album in re-worked form. The only other song title confirmed to date is 'Deathbed' - a title which suggests that the band haven't acquired a sunnier disposition since their relocation to San Francisco a few years back.

**ETA:** April on Vagrant.



# INCOMING!

HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005



Amy Lee: "dark and creepy"

## EVANESCENCE

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The departure of co-founding guitarist Ben Moody in November 2003 has hardly been a setback to the Arkansas quintet. Following the completion of her band's massive world tour, vocalist Amy Lee spent the final weeks of 2004 getting the ball rolling on the band's follow-up to 2003's hugely successful 'Fallen' debut.

"Right now we've got just four rough demos I don't even have the vocals for," she tells *K!*, adding that while fans shouldn't expect a departure, the songs are "really different" and "a little more vibey".

"It's all dark and creepy," she adds.

But whereas the band's past efforts heavily relied on Ben Moody's contributions as the band's primary songwriter, this release will showcase a much more collaborative spirit, with Lee sharing much of the creative mantle with her bandmates. "I've learned ProTools and I've been engineering a demo," she adds. "The last couple of weeks have been great. It's going to surprise a lot of people."

**ETA:** Autumn on Wind Up/Sony.

## STEREOPHONICS

**TITLE:** 'Language. Sex. Violence. Other?'

**THE BUZZ:** Just when fears were growing that we'd lost Stereophonics forever to 'dad-rock', Kelly Jones' band have gone all riffy and rocky once more with an album that puts a darker spin on the punchy songwriting of their 1997 debut 'Word Gets Around'. Recorded in various studios with new drummer, Argentinean Javier Weyler, new songs set to feature on their fifth album include 'Doorman', 'Superman', 'Devil', 'Girl' and 'Lolita'. According to Kelly Jones the band have ditched their acoustic guitars and tried to go back to where they started because it feels more natural to them now.

"We're going to have 10 songs on the album and it's going to be 40 minutes long," he told *K!* recently. "Keep it short and sweet and get the fuck out!" The band are planning a series of intimate club shows in order to launch the album before hitting arenas later in 2005.

**ETA:** March on V2.

## DEFTONES

**Title:** 'SATURDAY NIGHT WRIST'

**THE BUZZ:** When recording a new album, the producer of the best-selling, best-recognised rock albums of all time isn't a bad man to have on your side. But hiring Bob Ezrin – the man behind Pink Floyd's 'The Wall' (1979) – isn't the only factor making Deftones' follow-up to 2003's self-titled epic interesting. The Sacramento quintet have already spent two months at Carriage House Studios – set in the distinctly chilly climes of Connecticut – recording what frontman Chino Moreno has already described in one MTV interview as "more Rush than Tool", possibly hinting at a return to the bone-jarring atmospherics of 2000's platinum-selling 'White Pony'. April will also see the long-awaited debut-release from Team Sleep – a side-project formed in 2001 by Moreno and his childhood friend, guitarist Tom Wilkinson.

**ETA:** June on Maverick.

## HUNDRED REASONS

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Hundred Reasons have now scooped the Best Unsigned Band category in the *K!* Readers' Poll twice – once as a fledgling act in 2000 and again this year. Despite having been dropped by Sony, however, the band remain upbeat and confident of releasing their best album yet in 2005.

"We've got about 16 songs at the moment but we want to try to write at least another 20 or 30," reveals guitarist Paul Townsend. "We want as many as possible to choose from so we get the best third album we possibly can."

Although the band are spending most of January in the studio they're yet to sign to a new label.

"We'll let our managers take care of business and we'll take care of writing and playing," says Townsend. Of the new tracks, most are unnamed, although 'No Pretending' has already made a live debut.

**ETA:** Autumn.

## MESHUGGAH

**TITLE:** 'Catch 33'

**THE BUZZ:** Considering how complex their music tends to be, it makes sense that Meshuggah have earned a reputation for needing a long time to put their albums together. Consequently, fans shouldn't hold their breath for the emergence of 'Catch 33', the long-awaited full-length follow-up to 2002's widely lauded 'Nothing' album. The Swedish band have stated that 2004's 20-minute, one-track 'I' EP (which was released via Fractured Transmitter, the label owned by Mushroomhead's Jason Mann) is no indication of how the new material will sound, but it seems likely that their trademark mind-bending math-metal riffs will still feature heavily. The album is currently being recorded at the band's studio in Umea, Sweden. 'Catch 33' will be the first Meshuggah release to feature new bassist (and former In Flames member) Dick Lövgren.

**ETA:** Autumn on Nuclear Blast.

## GOLDFINGER

**TITLE:** 'Disconnection Notice'

**THE BUZZ:** Goldfinger's fifth album looks set to be the Californian band's most diverse, eclectic offering yet.

"Everyone used to classify us as ska-punk but my three favourite artists are Ani DiFranco, Slipknot and The Beatles," says frontman John Feldmann. "So, as a songwriter, where do I fall in the middle of that? We have a song like 'Damaged' which has mandolins, this crazy sampled Indian vocal and no distorted guitars at all... I felt like we really pushed the envelope on this record."

Emerging on the band's new label, Maverick (for whom Feldmann also A&Rs), 'Disconnection Notice' features 'My Everything', 'Wasted', 'Ocean Size', 'Uncomfortable', 'Too Many Nights', 'Damaged', 'Behind The Mask', 'I Want', 'Iron Fist', 'Walk Away', 'Faith' and 'Stalker'. Feldmann, who has recently produced The Used, Good Charlotte and Story Of The Year, produced, engineered and mixed the album himself.

**ETA:** February 14 on Maverick.





**"WE'RE IN A LITTLE FARMHOUSE  
IN THE ABSOLUTE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE." CHINO MORENO**

Deftones: (L-R) Abe  
Cunningham, Stephen  
Carpenter, Frank Delgado,  
Chino Moreno, Chi Cheng

## **CHINO MORENO ON CABIN FEVER, "SICK" SONGS AND - GASP! - OUTBREAKS OF BAND HARMONY...**

### **HOW'S THE RECORD COMING ALONG?**

"Great! I'm actually up in Connecticut at the moment, and it's fucking freezing right now."

### **DON'T YOU ALWAYS RECORD IN MALIBU?**

"Yeah, but being up out at Carriage Studios is rad because it's great for keeping our focus. There's nothing up here to distract us because it's basically this little farmhouse in the absolute middle of nowhere. It's really just a cabin in the snow."

### **HOW FAR ALONG IS THE RECORD?**

"All the songs are tracked and I'm just working on the vocals. We took a break for the holidays but we're coming back at the start of January to finish it off, and we're hoping to be done by the end of the month."

### **WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH BOB EZRIN?**

"It's definitely a different experience. He's this older

guy, and he's super, super-analytical. We've never really experienced anything like him - having our shit broken down like that. He's really twisted the stuff we're doing, which is kind of neat because up until now everything we've come up with is pretty much what you hear on the records. Bob's really tried to make some way more complex song structures. It's sick."

### **WHAT'S THE ALBUM LIKE?**

"Everything sticks together. I wouldn't say it's a concept record, but the themes flow in and out of every song. We've never tried to make one cohesive album so it's been a trip, especially because we're actually getting along as a band. Before this we were arguing with each other all the time because we were really fighting for our parts. It was good, but I think the strongest songwriting part of the band is Stephen [Carpenter, guitar] and I, and we're really working closely this time. He's a huge riff guy, and he's been doing some way more complicated stuff and I've

been really concentrating on my singing and dynamics. It's the way that we sound together this time that'll set this apart."

### **DO YOU HAVE AN ALBUM TITLE YET?**

"We're thinking about 'Saturday Night Wrist'. I heard about this girl who got drunk and fell asleep on her arm and she couldn't feel her hand, and her doctor said that's what it was. As for the song titles, the first two we've got are 'Buffalo' and 'Diamond', and they're all based on historical things that interest me. It's all metaphorical stuff for day-to-day shit, but the theme is definitely historic."

### **AND WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH TEAM SLEEP?**

"The Team Sleep record was turned in a few months ago. As soon as I'm finished with the Deftones record I'm going to get back to California and start rehearsing with Team Sleep so we can follow it up with a tour." (AM)



**INCOMING!****HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005****CEDRIC BIXLER-ZAVALA AND OMAR RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ ON SALSA, PSYCHEDELICS AND SURREAL DIARIES...****YOU'VE STRESSED THIS ISN'T A CONCEPT-ALBUM...**

**CEDRIC:** "Well, everyone seems to be doing concept albums now, and we don't want to get lumped in with Green Day. But Jeremy (Ward, the band's late sound manipulator) used to work as a 'repoman', and he picked up lots of interesting stuff, weird things, naked photos, and this diary, upon which we based the narrative. He let us read it a bunch of times; it was by an adopted guy searching to find his real parents. It was very surreal, it didn't make much sense – the guy might've been a schizophrenic – but it was very inspiring. It felt like how certain music helps you escape your boring every-day life, and so the names and scenes in the diary directly inspired these songs."

**THERE'S A DEFINITE LATIN INFLUENCE TO THE MUSIC...**

**OMAR:** "A friend who worked at the Universal Latin music division hooked us up with (Salsa composer) Larry Harlow; I didn't think anything would come of it, but I got an e-mail from Larry saying he loved the 'Tremulant' EP and could hear the Latin influence upon it. So an e-mail friendship turned into a telephone friendship, and he offered to play on our next record, which was a total childhood dream come true. We recorded with him in my hometown in Puerto Rico, and my father flew back with us so he could watch the session – he couldn't believe we were performing with Larry Harlow. He was a perfect gentleman, and a very lively spirit, even at 50-plus years old."

**WAS IT DAUNTING TO ENTER THE STUDIO WITHOUT PRODUCER RICK RUBIN BY YOUR SIDE?**

**OMAR:** "Not at all. I felt liberated; Rick has a great ear for melody, and is great at pre-production, but most of the technical stuff on 'Deloused...' was actually done by myself and the engineer. I had no fear – just a very clear vision of what exactly The Mars Volta should sound like, which I've always had. We made 'Frances The Mute' much like a director makes a movie. I didn't let the musicians perform together, I recorded them separately, so they had to memorise their parts perfectly. They had to have absolute trust in me, like actors would trust their director. Afterwards, I assembled all the parts like when an editor pieces together all the scenes from a movie."

**CEDRIC:** "I was lucky enough to be the person who got to put words and singing to the music. I just kinda went along for the ride, like if you've ever been unsure if you should take psychedelics or not, but you do, and you put all your faith and your luck into that one moment. It had to be the way it was, following Omar's lead – you have to take it on faith."

**YOU GUYS HAVE A HABIT OF THROWING YOURSELVES INTO THE DEEP-END AND THEN LEARNING TO SWIM...**

**OMAR:** "It's like the new drug for us: how difficult can we make things, and how do we improvise our way past those self-imposed obstacles!" (SC)

**"WE DON'T WANT TO GET LUMPED IN WITH GREEN DAY."  
CEDRIC BIXLER-ZAVALA**

**THE MARS VOLTA****TITLE: 'FRANCES THE MUTE'**

**THE BUZZ:** The Mars Volta have never been ones to offer an easy ride, and their second album is no different. Clocking in at 76 minutes and 55 seconds of uninterrupted music, the single track will be broken down into "suites", entitled 'Cygnus... Vismund Cygnus: A. Sarcophagi, B. Umbilical Syllables, C. Facilis Descensus Avernii, D. Con Safo', 'The Widow', 'L' Via L' Viaquez', 'Miranda That Ghost Just Isn't Holy Anymore: A. Vade Mecum, B. Pour Another Icepick, C. Pisacis (Phra-Men-Ma), D. Con Safo', 'Cassandra Gemini: A. Tarantism, B. Plant A Nail In The Navel Stream, C. Faminepulse, D. Multiple Spouse Wounds, E. Sarcophagi'. The album was produced by guitarist Omar A Rodriguez-Lopez, who wrote all of the music. Vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala wrote the lyrics in both English and Spanish. Recorded from January to August 2004, 'Frances The Mute' was recorded in Australia, California, Puerto Rico and New York, and once again features the Chili Peppers' Flea on trumpet and John Frusciante on guitar. The band will shoot their first ever video – for 'The Widow' – in El Paso this month.

**ETA:** February 28 on Universal.

The Mars Volta: (L-R)  
Omar A Rodriguez-Lopez,  
Cedric Bixler-Zavala

Photo: Lisa Johnson





## YEAH YEAH YEAHS

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Back in the UK at the tail end of 2004 for live dates, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs were keeping tight-lipped about their forthcoming album. So far, all that's confirmed is that the band are planning to enter the studio in spring this year. They've also said that people who have heard new songs this year, either live or on the recent 'Tell Me What Rockers To Swallow' DVD, may be disappointed as none of them are guaranteed to make it on the album. And as yet they're keeping the studio and producer under wraps, too. The secretive bastards. Meanwhile, Nick Zinner who guested on the recent Blood Brothers album 'Crimes', claims that he's planning further collaborations with the band, suggesting that the two parties might team up to form a thrash metal band together. Crikey.

**ETA:** Winter on Dress Up/Polydor.

Yeah Yeah Yeahs: (L-R)  
Brian Chase, Karen O, Nick Zinner

Lucky Nine have finished recording tracks for their debut EP, due for release on March 7 on Mighty Atom.

**ETA:** TBC.

pressure of creating music in an environment where everybody seems to be hurting." Awww, bless.

**ETA:** Autumn on Warners.

## HOT HOT HEAT

**TITLE:** 'Elevator'

**THE BUZZ:** After the success of 2002's 'Make Up The Breakdown', Hot Hot Heat entered 2004 in bullish mood. Their first major decision of the year was ditching guitarist Dante DeCaro – despite him co-writing much of their new album. Recorded in LA at Cole Studios, among others, with Dave Sardy (Hundred Reasons, Jet) in the producer's chair, the band claim the new material is a big leap from their debut. Song titles include the first single 'Goodnight, Goodnight', 'You Owe Me And IOU', 'Running Out Of Time', 'Island Of The Honest', 'No Jokes – Fact' and 'Soldier In A Box'. They also claim to have used the same snare drum – called The Terminator – that Dave Grohl used while recording 'Nevermind'. New guitarist Luke Paquin is currently ensconced in a rehearsal studio with the band in order to learn the new material in time for a proposed February tour.

**ETA:** April on Warners.

## CAVE IN

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Free from their contract with RCA/BMG, the Boston band have been writing separately throughout the past 12 months. "We've been asked numerous times about when the next Cave In album will be released," they noted on their website. "As great as it is that a good amount of people seem to take an interest in this, we don't presently have the ability to say when it will actually happen. Out of the 10 or so tunes we've written since 'Antenna', we're still excited about maybe half of them at this point." Rumours abound that the band will be returning to a more hardcore sound on the new album. Frontman Stephen Brodsky, meanwhile, has been exchanging material with ex-Dahlia Seed Tracy Wilson on a new project called Calico Ghost Town. You can hear a four-track demo at [www.dahliaseed.com](http://www.dahliaseed.com).

**ETA:** Winter.

## AUDIOSLAVE

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** With 25 songs already written for their second album it would seem the ex-members of Rage Against the Machine and Soundgarden are well on their way to exceeding all expectations of 2002's multi-platinum self-titled debut. "The songs are heading in some places where none of the four of us have ever gone in our careers before," said guitarist Tom Morello recently, adding that the release will sound far less like a cross between RATM and Soundgarden than their debut. "When we listen back to the daily tapes, we're surprised at the music that's jumping off of them." Audioslave mega-producer Rick Rubin would seem to agree. "What's exciting to me about this album is they weren't really a band when we made the last album," he noted. "They had never done one show. The potential is off the map. I think the last album is good, but I think we could do better than that."

**ETA:** Spring on Sony.

## 'A'

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** It's been a frustrating 12 months for 'A'. After recording their follow-up to 'Hi-Fi Serious' in Seattle's Studio X with Deftones/Pantera producer Terry Date back in spring 2004, thanks to record company politics the album has yet to surface – not, you sense, something the band are happy with. But the latest rumours suggest that the album will emerge this year. Song titles include the self-explanatory 'The Rush Song', 'The Art Of Making Sense', 'Afterburner' and 'Second Coming'. "It's all about the songs with Terry," says vocalist Jason Perry. "He just wants to capture you as you are – playing and singing like you mean it."

Meanwhile bassist Dan Carter and Hundred Reasons frontman Colin Doran's side-project The

## DISTURBED

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** After a chaotic 2004 – they had an onstage brawl with Finch, and bassist Steve 'Fuzz' Knak left, to be replaced by former Union Underground man John Meyer – David Draiman and co went into the studio in December with producer Johnny K and engineer Andy Wallace to work on their third album. "The vibe in general is much darker," Draiman told MTV.com. "The tone of the music, the state of our minds. I'm thinking it will be somewhere in-between 'The Sickness' and 'Believe'. The frontman went on to say that he expected the album to sound "angrier" and "more frustrated" than 'Believe', as he was using the song to release the tension he was feeling around the band. "There are so many things that piss me off these days," he noted. "The further you go down this path, the more your psyche gets affected. There are frustrations for 100 different reasons. There's anger at the dualities of life. There's the separation with our bass player and there's the

## THURSDAY

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Last summer Thursday vocalist Geoff Rickly was telling friends that the New Jersey band were gonna split following their stint on the Warped Tour. However, it appears that the band got a second wind following the tour – during which Rickly got hitched in Vegas – and have written so much new material there could be not one but two new albums by the end of 2005. Each member of the band is currently writing, and they're meeting at rehearsal spaces to work on new ideas at the moment. "This is what it was like when we first started Thursday. It was a very organic process," Rickly told MTV recently. The frontman says that if they do release two albums, one will be "really traditional, scream-y, heavy album" and the other "slower and epic sounding", referencing bands like Mogwai.

"They're only going to be finished when we're sure they're the best things we've ever done," promises Rickly.

**ETA:** Winter on Mercury.



# INCOMING!

## HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005

FFAF: (L-R) Darren Smith, Matt Davies, Ryan Richards, Gareth Davies, Kris Roberts



## VOCALIST MATT DAVIES ON THAT 'DIFFICULT' SECOND ALBUM AND LISTENING TO KERRANG!'S ADVICE...

### WHAT DO THE NEW SONGS SOUND LIKE?

"Oh they're rubbish! They're really sappy, all the songs are about girls... No, not really! There was a review in Kerrang! recently that said we needed to lose the screamo thing and that's actually exactly what we've done anyway. There's no screaming at all on this one... Well, maybe a little bit. Most of it is going to rely on the melodies, the singing and the fucking huge choruses."

### WAS IT THE CLICHÉD 'DIFFICULT SECOND ALBUM'?

"No, I loved it. I'm confident about it, I'm pretty sure everyone's going to be absolutely blown away by the new record. I get fucking goosebumps every time I hear it. I have to keep pinching myself that we actually wrote those songs, it sounds too good for it to have come from us! There's a lot more thought in these songs than the old ones, it's much more mature."

## "I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE GUY WHINING OVER THE LOST GIRL ANYMORE!"

**MATT DAVIES**

### DIDN'T YOU LOSE ALL YOUR LYRICS AT ONE POINT?

"I lost almost everything – my computer crashed and they all went. The ones I did manage to salvage weren't very good anyway."

### WHAT ARE THEY ABOUT THIS TIME?

"I didn't want to be the guy whining over the lost girl anymore! There may be one or two songs on the new record along that line, but not as much as on the last album."

### WHAT IS THE NEW STUFF ABOUT THEN?

"It's more about life unfolding before you, dealing with being a bit more well-known than I was. The idea of being in the public eye is a bizarre concept for me, so a lot of lyrics are about my insecurities of dealing with that. I've also started addressing things

## FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND

**Title:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** From a Kerrang! Award for Best British Newcomer in 2003 to massive album sales of their debut album 'Casually Dressed And Deep In Conversation' and a world tour alongside bands like Iron Maiden and Taking Back Sunday, things could hardly have worked out better for FFAF in the past few years. But it's meant that their new album had to be written in hotel rooms around the world. The band are currently putting the finishing touches to the tracks before heading to Seattle later this month to record with Terry Date (Deftones/Pantera). The album will be done and dusted by mid-March. Song titles so far include 'Sonny', 'It's All The Rage', 'Hospitality' and 'Roses For The Dead', the latter having been first aired at Reading and Leeds festivals last August.

**ETA:** May on EastWest.

in my life like losing friends and family members. A lot of it seems to have just poured out of me. I'm trying to make sure that every song is true to me and my experiences – I don't want to be singing something that doesn't mean anything in a year or two."

### MUSICALLY WHAT'S CHANGED?

"There's a song with keyboards and drum samples which is a little like Depeche Mode. Kris [Roberts, guitar] has been really challenging himself. We're not afraid of anything musically – we're not just an emo band, we're a rock band. You never know, we might do a bonus track with a huge sax solo on it. Actually, Kris loves Santana, so maybe it will be a Latin, saxophone-based jazz odyssey."

### ANY ALBUM TITLES YET?

"We have some working titles: 'Real Men Wear Pink But Call It Salmon' and 'Ride The Typhoon'. Take your pick." (TB)



L-R: Frusciante, Flea, Smith, Kiedis. Dress to the left then, John?



## RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The Chilis are currently holed up in a bunker in Los Angeles writing and demoing new material, despite already having 15 tracks recorded for possible use on the follow-up to 2002's 'By The Way'. The unnamed tracks were put on tape while they were working on 2004's 'Greatest Hits' with Rick Rubin.

"We wrote and recorded 15 songs, and they rock," bassist Flea stated on the band's website. "We gave it no thought, we just rocked, and it worked well. It is the fastest we have ever recorded so much material. We played a wide variety of music arranged into song format that is among the most diverse and dynamic, good feeling shit we have ever done. It was the way to go. No thinking, just rocking." Guitarist John Frusciante's latest solo album, 'A Sphere In The Heart Of Silence', will emerge in February.

**ETA:** Autumn on Warners.

## TOOL

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** While frontman Maynard James Keenan has been busy with A Perfect Circle, the other three members of Tool have been putting together the music for the band's fourth full-length album, the follow-up to 2001's 'Lateralus'. Drummer Danny Carey has intimated that the band have assembled at least 10 new songs and that the new material may be their heaviest to date.

"There seems to be a little more brute force going on in the music, rather than being lighter and more intricate like some of the stuff on the last record," he states. "It still has quirky time changes, but so far we've been working on really heavy stuff. Mike Patton and (Fantômas/Slayer drummer) Dave Lombardo – those guys are a good, heavy influence, and we did most of the dates on our last tour with Meshuggah. They're incredibly heavy, so it was a good kick in the teeth playing with them."

**ETA:** Spring via Volcano.

## POISON THE WELL

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** The Florida hardcore five-piece rounded off 2004 touring the UK with The Dillinger Escape Plan, and are just heading into a studio in Sweden now to work on their new fourth album. That's not to say they've been leaving it until the last minute – the band have 30 songs to play with and expand on so far, and are apparently excited about the material they already have to build on. The quintet have elected to stick with the winning team they had for 2003's 'You Come Before You', with Swedish producers Pelle Henricsson and Eskil Lovstrom (Refused/Hell Is For Heroes) at the helm again. It will be their first album without guitarist and founding-member Derek Miller, who split amicably from the band back in September. He has been replaced by Jason Boyer.

**ETA:** Spring on Atlantic.

## MUDVAYNE

**TITLE:** 'Lost And Found'

**THE BUZZ:** Recorded at The Plant studios in Sausalito, California – a former base for Metallica – and produced by ex-Ugly Kid Joe guitarist Dave Fortman (Evanescence/Superjoint Ritual), the Illinois quartet's forthcoming release is set to push the band's complex math-metal grooves even further.

"Instead of being all slick, we're definitely going for a raw sound on this record," said guitarist Greg Tribbett recently, adding that Mudvayne's third major label album will signal something of a return to the band's roots – as heard on their 2000's 'L.D. 50'. "The last one was pretty smooth so we're mixing it up a bit."

The follow-up to 2002's 'The End Of All Things To Come' will have 12 tracks, including 'Just', 'Happy', 'Pushing Through' and 'Fucking Determined', which will be the album's first single (in addition to featuring on the recently-released 'Need For Speed: Underground 2' console game).

**ETA:** Spring on Sony.

## CHILDREN OF BODOM

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Finland's biggest extreme metal band are due to start work on their fifth studio album at the beginning of the year. The band recently released a stopgap EP titled 'Trashed, Lost & Strungout' via Spinefarm, which featured cover versions of Alice Cooper's 'Bed Of Nails' and, bizarrely, Andrew W.K.'s 'She Is Beautiful' alongside two new songs. According to frontman Alexi Laiho the direction of the new material has yet to be decided.

"Nothing is planned," he states. "The two new songs that we recorded for the EP are heavier, more harsh and more in your face kind of stuff, a little bit more straightforward maybe. But it's really hard to say what the whole album is going to sound like."

Meanwhile, Laiho's punk rock side-project Kylähuullut (Village Fools) release their debut album 'Turpa Täynnä' ('Hammered') in January.

**ETA:** Autumn on Spinefarm.

## THE GLITTERATI

**TITLE:** TBC

**THE BUZZ:** Given The Glitterati's penchant for mid-'80s rock, it should come as no surprise they have decided to record their debut in the very heart of that scene: Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. Compounding that spirit, they've enlisted Mike Clink (producer of GIN'R's 'Appetite For Destruction') on knob-twiddling duties. Recorded at Cello Studios – previously host to Stone Temple Pilots, Blink 182, Green Day and Mötley Crüe – song titles include 'Back In Power', 'Heartbreaker', 'Oh Well, Whatever', 'Do You Love Yourself' and 'First Floor'. According to the band their sound has changed since they arrived in America and started working with Clink, so anyone who witnessed them live in 2004 should be prepared for a shock. But, given where they are and who's producing, no-one should expect prog-rock mini-symphonies.

**ETA:** May on Atlantic.



# INCOMING!

## HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005

## QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE

Title: 'LULLABIES TO PARALYSE'

**THE BUZZ:** The new Queens record may not feature former collaborators Mark Lanegan or Nick Oliveri – but guest-appearances by The Distillers' Brody Dalle, ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons, Ween's Dean Ween, Garbage's Shirley Manson, and Jesse 'The Devil' Hughes – from Josh Homme's side-project the Eagles Of Death Metal – are sure to provide substantial distraction. Under the guidance of producer Joe Baresi the band recorded 20 tracks between August and October 2004 at Rancho de la Luna studios in Joshua Tree, California. Tracks likely to make the final cut include 'Tangled Up In Plaid', 'The Fun Machine Took A Shit And Died' and 'Someone's In The Wolf'. Along with the appearance of new bassist Alain Johannes (ex-Eleven), the release will feature a brass band (conducted by Homme) and a er, zipping fly.

"Josh really grows with each album," says sometimes collaborator guitarist Dave Catching. "The tone is somewhere that they haven't gone before. Each album goes a little further down a dark road."

**ETA:** March 21 on Interscope.

### JOSH HOMME ON SEX, THE "DEVIL'S GUITAR" AND EMBRACING THE DARK SIDE ...

#### HOW'S THE ALBUM COMING?

"Great! Actually it's all done, but thanks for asking. I've been twiddling my thumbs waiting for someone to ask. I can't wait for everyone to hear it."

#### WHAT'S IT LIKE?

"All these songs make me think of colours and visuals, so the record as a whole sounds like it's standing under a lamp-post just past midnight. It's all night-time."

#### WHERE DOES THE TITLE COME FROM?

"It's a lyric from the last song on 'Songs For The Deaf' called 'Mosquito Song'. It really sums up the vibe of the album, where it completely lulls you to sleep and then the dark thoughts take off. You're stuck there but it's a good feeling."

#### WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH ZZ TOP'S BILLY GIBBONS?

"It was incredible. I've been a fan since I was a kid. Those early albums like 'Fandango' and 'Tres Hombres' were massive for me. He was one of Hendrix's favourite guitar-players. If that's not the absolute stamp of bad-ass then I don't know what is."

#### ARE SHIRLEY MANSON AND BRODY DALLE PLAYING THROUGHOUT THE ALBUM?

"Not at all. They're actually just on a small piece of one song. We definitely needed some hot bitches during one of those sessions. Actually, when they filled out their job-applications they checked the 'hot bitches' box so we had them in. No, really they're both close to us and they happened to be there at 3:30 in the morning and we just happened to need some sultry voices."

#### ARE ALL 20 SONGS GOING TO BE ON THE ALBUM?

"No they're not, because you never want to leave people wanting less. The album's

going to be 54 or 55 minutes and no more. I can't speak for anyone else but that's just about as much time as I have for any album. But we're really getting ready to get some real collectables to go with some releases."

#### LIKE WHAT?

"My tiny label Records Records is going to be releasing 10-inch vinyls and special-cool cover-art from local artists. It's the kind of stuff that reminds me of when I was first getting into music and you got something with an album."

#### WHAT WAS IT LIKE CONDUCTING A BRASS BAND?

"Great. It's just an incredible feeling to stand in front of four tubas, and there's nothing like the fluidity of a trombone. It can be such a sweeping, dark addition. We decided instead of filling the nuance of a guitar by doubling it, why not add the real devil's guitar? Strings are so last year honey. I want to turn people on to brass. Plus, I'm really horny."

#### IS IT TRUE YOU'VE BEEN UNZIPPING YOUR FLY INTO THE MIC?

"I do that every day, but there's a song called 'Skin On Skin' where I do that and it kind of represents everything that the song's about – which is basically having a one-track mind, having sex on the brain..."

#### HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE ALAIN JOHANNES TO NICK OLIVERI?

"I wouldn't! I would just say that both of those guys are amazing individuals. Alain's been a dear friend for some time, and he's a boy genius. He actually learned how to play flute by watching someone else. For me that's just impossible. I just suck, I don't blow." (AM)

"BRODY DALLE AND SHIRLEY MANSON ARE ON THE ALBUM BECAUSE WE NEEDED SOME HOT BITCHES..."

Josh Homme: presumably unable to locate any Queens



# IDLEWILD

## Title: 'WARNINGS/PROMISES'

**THE BUZZ:** It's been a while since Idlewild put their heads above the surface in the UK. In the past few years they've been touring heavily in America and also going through a few line-up changes. Following ex-bassist Bob Fairfoull's dismissal midway through a European tour after falling out with the band, new bassist Gavin Fox and touring guitarist Allan Stewart are now full-time members and have brought with them a different approach to songwriting. There's also a new mellowness and added thoughtfulness to the band, partly induced by a songwriting spree in the Scottish Highlands and partly attributed to recording in LA for the first time.

**ETA:** March 7 on Parlophone.

## ZACK DE LA ROCHA

### TITLE: TBC

**THE BUZZ:** While Audioslave are busy cracking on with album number two, former Rage Against The Machine frontman Zack de la Rocha is *still* to deliver his debut, almost half a decade after his former band came to an end. There is light at the end of the tunnel, though. The first fruits of the collaboration between de la Rocha and Nine Inch Nails mainman Trent Reznor - the furious call to arms 'We Want It All', recorded at Reznor's New Orleans studio - emerged in 2004 on 'Songs And Artists That Inspired Fahrenheit 9/11'. Other collaborations rumoured on the internet include DJ Shadow (who described de la Rocha's new material as "hardcore"), as well as Roni Size, Handsome Boy Modelling School/Head Automatica man Dan The Automator and Cypress Hill's DJ Muggs. 'We Want It All' proved that the singer has lost none of his fire, so don't expect easy listening when the album finally emerges.

**ETA:** Winter on Sony.

## HELL IS FOR HEROES

### TITLE: 'Transmit Disrupt'

**THE BUZZ:** As for their debut, 'The Neon Handshake', West London quintet Hell Is For Heroes travelled to Sweden to record their follow-up with the assistance of über-post-hardcore producers Pelle Henricsson and Eskil Lovstrom (Refused/Poison The Well). They've also discovered a renewed sense of independence since splitting with label Chrysalis over songwriting directions. Consequently they will be releasing their new record on their own label and through exclusive free internet downloads on their website. Song titles include recent single 'Kamichi', 'Models For The Programme', 'Quiet Riot', 'Folded Paper Figures', 'They Will Call Us Savages', 'Silent As The Grave', 'One Of Us', 'Transmit Disrupt', 'Discos And Casinos' and 'Burning Lafayette'. Enhanced CDs will also feature videos and films.

**ETA:** March 14.

## COHEED AND CAMBRIA

**TITLE:** 'My Dear Apollo, I'll Be Burning Star 4 - Volume I - The One Into Madness'

**THE BUZZ:** You can expect Coheed And Cambria to continue their complicated sci-fi post-prog narrative where they left it, at the end of 'In Keeping With Secrets Of Silent Earth: 3' and the accompanying comic book. Frontman Claudio Sanchez has already written far too much new material to fit on one album, and will have to whittle the songs down before entering the studio early this year.

"I've been home the past few days looking over drafts of the comic book and working on new material for our next release tentatively titled: 'My Dear Apollo, I'll Be Burning Star 4 - Volume I - The One Into Madness'." Sanchez wrote on the band's website. "The title might change, but I'm so excited about it right now so I thought I'd let you know." Thanks geek-boy.

**ETA:** Summer on Equal Vision.

**HOT ALBUMS FOR 2005 WRITTEN BY:** TOM BRYANT, STEVIE CHICK, EMMA JOHNSTON, DOM LAWSON, ALEXANDER MILAS, PAUL TRAVERS

"IT'S NOT CRADLE OF FILTH OR ANYTHING."  
**RODDY WOOMBLE**



Idlewild: (L-R) Allan Stewart, Gavin Fox, Roddy Woomble, Rod Jones, Colin Newton

## RODDY WOOMBLE ON HOW IDLEWILD LOST THEIR YOUTH...

### WHAT DOES THE NEW RECORD SOUND LIKE?

"People I've played it to have said it's a million miles away from our other stuff - hopefully people will like it. I would say it's easier to understand; it's not so cryptic and vague lyrically. These songs are more like public service announcements! It wears its heart on its sleeve. It's very open."

### HOW DIFFERENT ARE WE TALKING?

"Well, it's not Cradle Of Filth or anything. I think they're the best songs we've written, but that doesn't necessarily mean everyone else will. I'm not sure it's the sort of record that will jump out at you the first time you hear it; it's a headphone record."

### IS THAT BECAUSE THE BAND HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST RECORD?

"It is a different group really, as we have Allan and Gavin in the band now. We didn't really know what to expect or what corner the band was going to turn. We didn't know what it would sound like when we went into the studio. We let it develop naturally instead which is why it took a bit longer to do."

### DID THE NEW MEMBERS CHANGE THE PROCESS?

"Me and Rod [Jones], our guitar player, wrote most of the last record between us and we wanted this one to be a more collaborative effort. It took us a while to understand how to do that. We normally write our songs in a house we rent in the Scottish Highlands, so we went up there and spent a bit of time getting to grips with what music we wanted to write and how to

do it."

### WILL IDLEWILD FANS BE SURPRISED BY THIS?

"I'm not even sure what an Idlewild fan is anymore. We've been around so long that we've crossed over into lots of different areas. When we started we were essentially a punk rock band and we were young, as were our fans. I'm 28 now; I've changed a lot. When I was 19 I wanted to mask everything with screams and vagueness. Now I want to sing songs that people can really understand. The first records were at 100mph and I was just screaming along with a drumbeat. Now everything plays around the words, so they're much more at the forefront."

### ARE YOU GETTING POETIC?

"Poetic is a heavy word to use, it carries a whiff of a lonely figure on the hillside, a scarf flapping in the breeze and a tear in the eye! It's not like I'm some lost soul, but I do read poetry and get a lot from it."

### ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT TOURING THIS RECORD, GIVEN THE TRAUMAS YOU HAD LAST TIME YOU WERE ON THE ROAD?

"What happened then wasn't because we were on tour, it was down to individuals being pretty fucked-up. This time it's not like that at all. I enjoy the company of the rest of my band, I like travelling and I get to play music while I'm at it." (TB)



# RATED: ALBUMS

KKKKK INCREDIBLE

KKKK GREAT

KKK FAIR

KK POOR

K RUBBISH

## Combat rock

THE GODFATHERS OF POST-HARDCORE REISSUE THEIR BACK CATALOGUE

"their reputation as innovators has only grown since their split"



## AT THE DRIVE-IN

ACROBATIC TENEMENT

KKK

IN/CASINO/OUT

KKKK

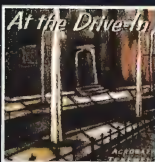
VAYA

KKKK

RELATIONSHIP OF  
COMMAND

KKKKKK

(FEARLESS/V2)



**AT THE** Drive-In never took the short cut to stardom. The fact they covered 50,000 road miles playing to scant crowds for the first two years of their existence was validation of their impeccable punk rock credentials. And just like bona fide legends such as MCS or the Sex Pistols or influential cult heroes like Refused or Nations Of Ulysses, their reputation as innovators has only grown after their split three years ago. Success was theirs for the taking but instead vocalist Cedric Bixler and guitarist Omar Rodriguez said, 'No ta, we're off to honk on a crack pipe and reinvent prog' – a bold career move whichever way you look at it.

As such, At The Drive-In now occupy that untouchable semi-mythical status that few bands reach so quickly; a musical force fuelled by half-truths and reverential hushed tones. Listening to their back catalogue it's clear why this band were special. Even on 1996 debut 'Acrobatic Tenement' the multi-national Texan five-piece were striving to do something different within punk and post-hardcore. Though lacking the precision production of later work, the ideas, twisted melodies and Cedric Bixler's staccato feminine bark are all in place. Costing just \$600 to make, it's a rough, energised, poetic rush worth investigating. Similarly, 1998's 'In/Casino/Out' was recorded live in four days and conveys the energy of this most urgent of bands, with 'Napoleon Solo' – an elegiac tribute to a late friend – showcasing the band's emotional (but never emo) side.

By 1999's 'Vaya', At The Drive-In had defined their own sound, a tangle of post-punk, hardcore, snippets of Spanish and occasional dub atmospherics, as on lush opener 'Rascuache'. It foreshadowed what was to come – namely, 2000's career cornerstone 'Relationship Of Command', produced by Ross Robinson, recorded for a tiny independent but subsequently released by the Beastie Boys. Suddenly ATD-I were global.

From taut, turbo-charged opener 'Arcarsenal' through 'hit' single 'One Armed Scissor' to an appearance from Iggy Pop on the slam-

ming pop weirdness of 'Rolodex Propaganda' it's arguably the best rock album this decade has produced – heart-attack music for the malnourished masses. And all this without mentioning the jaw-dropping gigs – and, of course, those tangled 'fros that appeared to act as conduits to another universe of sound.

In a word: iconic.

BEN MYERS

## HERO WORSHIP

BIFFY CLYRO'S SIMON NEIL ON  
AT THE DRIVE-IN



### WHY DO YOU LOVE AT THE DRIVE-IN?

"They were the most passionate band in every element of what they did – as important as Nirvana were in the early '90s. James

[Johnston, Biffy bassist] picked up their 'Vaya' EP on vinyl and it blew my mind when I heard it. I kept listening to it non-stop for weeks and then went out and got their other albums. My favourite album is 'In/Casino/Out'. It's a flawless record."

### DID YOU EVER SEE THEM PLAY LIVE?

"I managed to catch them live twice – once at T in The Park and then at the Arches in Glasgow. At T I couldn't believe what I was seeing. They went completely ballistic – a thousand times more intense than on record. I also saw them on a TV show with Robbie Williams, which was fucking hilarious. You could see the fat, talentless fuck-nugget shit his pants because of his complete irrelevance."

### HOW WOULD YOU RATE THEIR INFLUENCE?

"They're incredibly influential, but unfortunately – as with all truly exciting music – their sound ended up being watered down for mass consumption, which is surely why the band imploded. They toured constantly for years and suddenly were thrust into the spotlight – it must have been a ridiculous amount of pressure for them. I think they did the right thing by splitting at their peak because it meant they never had to compromise."

## CANDIRIA

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU...



### CANDIRIA

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU...

(TYPE A)

KKKK

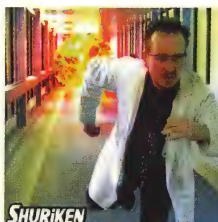
REBORN ECLECTIC METALLERS  
SEIZE THE DAY.

**HAVING SURVIVED** a horrific, near-fatal road crash while on tour last year, Candiria have no need to justify a slight change of approach. A new outlook means that the band's convoluted, jazz-metal attack has been tempered with a sprinkling of sweet melodies, more readily digested rhythms and, most refreshingly, some clean vocals from frontman Carley Coma. The supremely catchy 'Remove Yourself' and 'The Nameless King' deserve to reach people way beyond the band's fan-base, and on the more complex and brutal tracks the New Yorkers exhibit their usual contempt for the norm, but with the added verve of Death Row inmates given a last-minute reprieve.

**DOWNLOAD:** 'Remove Yourself'.

**FOR FANS OF:** P.O.D., The Dillinger Escape Plan.

DOM LAWSON



### SHURIKEN

EVACUATE/DISINTEGRATE

(YOU AND WHOSE ARMY?)

KKK

SPARKY MINI-ALBUM FROM POST-HARDCORE MOB.

**WITH THEIR** terrible name and what might be the year's worst album cover, you could be forgiven for dismissing these Scunthorpe-based urchins. However, while Shuriken's mixture of indie-rock and post-hardcore is far from original, there's an irresistible *rush* to their music, all soaring melodies and insistent energy. Within seconds of opener 'The 18th Emergency' it's clear that they've mastered all the dynamic tricks in the emo songbook.

The inclusion of a live acoustic track is unnecessary, and it remains to be seen whether Shuriken could convince over a full album, but 'Evacuate/Disintegrate' is just fine for starters.

**DOWNLOAD:** 'The 18th Emergency'.

**FOR FANS OF:** The Get Up Kids, Brand New.

OLLY THOMAS



### THE DEEP EYNDE

SHADOWLAND

(DISASTER)

KK

DARK BUT DULL PUNK-BY-NUMBERS.

**THEY MAY** look the part with their chains and Mohawks, but on album opener 'Suicide Drive', So-Cal quartet The Deep Eynde's (bad name, dudes) play a brand of punk disconcertingly close to shit-era Billy Idol.

These chaps started out as a Goth/new-wave band whose debt to the Misfits and Christian Death is obvious – old Goths, by their very nature, *never* die – yet are not nearly as new as such forefathers. Hollywood is awash with bands in tatty threads playing punk rock karaoke that's tiresome and regrettably inoffensive.

Which is a shame because someone out there will like this. Their mums, perhaps.

**DOWNLOAD:** '9th Day'.

**FOR FANS OF:** Misfits, Social Distortion.

BEN MYERS



### NFD

NO LOVE LOST

(JUNGLE)

KKK

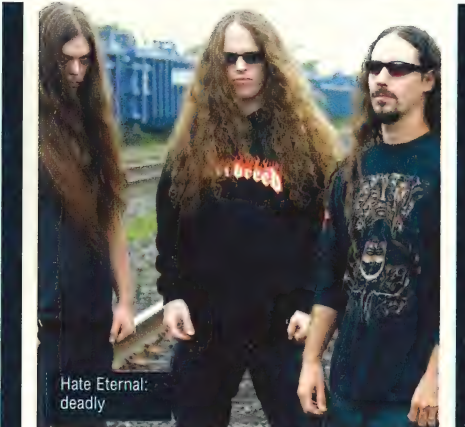
THE GOTH REVIVAL CONTINUES APACE.

**ATTENTION ALL** Rasmus fans: caking yourself in eyeliner and shoving half a dead crow on your head does not a Goth make. Including members of black-hearted *über*-lords Fields Of The Nephilim, NFD are about as shadow-hued as they come. Frontman Peter 'Bob' White sounds like he's gargling crushed glass, growling over darkly atmospheric riffs and leadenly downbeat basslines in a manner that suggests he's considering ripping your throat out just to see what would happen. At times the whole effect is chillingly effective, at others it's all a bit ludicrous as White trowels on the gravelly tones of doom like a Hammer Horror Hallowe'en special. Expect a *lot* of dry ice at their live shows.

**DOWNLOAD:** 'Awaken (i) (A Life Forsaken)'.

**FOR FANS OF:** Fields Of The Nephilim, Ministry.

EMMA JOHNSTON



### VARIOUS ARTISTS

CHOOSING DEATH - THE  
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

(RELAPSE)

KKKK

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE WONDERS OF DEATH.

**A SPLENDID** companion piece to Albert Mudrian's book of the same name, this well-timed compilation will shed a great deal of light onto the enduring appeal of death metal, particularly for anyone yet to investigate the genre. There's no faulting the choice of tracks here, with everyone from pioneers Repulsion, Morbid Angel and Obituary through to more recent (but no less revered) exponents like Nile and Hate Eternal represented. In fact, only the absence of a track from Autopsy raises an eyebrow. Rare stuff from Suffocation, Nihilist (or Entombed, as they would eventually become) and Pig Destroyer rounds off a note-perfect summary.

**DOWNLOAD:** Morbid Angel 'Chapel Of Ghouls'.

**FOR FANS OF:** Slayer, Slipknot.

DOM LAWSON



# Stripped bare



**NEW DOCUMENTARY REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT PUNK'S MOST INFLUENTIAL BAND**

## RAMONES: END OF THE CENTURY

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL GRAMAGLIA & JIM FIELDS

**KKKK**

**FOR THOSE** who have been in a musical coma for the past three decades, the Ramones were four losers from Forest Hills, USA, who rebelled against the pap masquerading as pop music in the early 1970s. Dispensing with solos in favour of two-minute, three-chord guitar assaults and indecipherable vocals, they created a sound like nothing else on Earth. Without the Ramones, everyone from The Clash to Green Day simply wouldn't exist.

Complementing this alien-to-the-ears racket, their appearance was decidedly more mutant than human. Slouching and skulking around in their leather-jackets, ripped denim, grubby sneakers and incongruous bowl haircuts, Johnny, Joey, Dee Dee and Tommy became the storm trooper vanguards of punk – the movement that would kick modern society's ass.

'Ramones: End Of The Century' is a celebratory – but, in keeping with their rawness, in no way glorified – testament to their influential career. Gramaglia and Fields' brilliant and informative flick plays like celluloid open-heart surgery. Kicking-off with the surviving members' induction into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame, it splices together killer archive footage with insightful interviews from both those involved and stalwart fans including Rob Zombie and Rancid's Lars Frederiksen.

The picture it paints is far from pretty, as it chronicles the band's chequered and problematic life. But such warts 'n' all honesty is crucial for viewers to experience what it was like to be a member of one of music's most important – but majorly misunderstood – bunch of anarchic misfits.

**BILLY CHAINSAW**

## TOMMY RAMONE ON 'END OF THE CENTURY'

THE ONLY SURVIVING MEMBER SPEAKS



**ARE YOU PLEASED WITH HOW THE FILM CAME OUT?**

"It's very dark, and you'd probably need a 12-hour film to tell the full story, but I think it's fair, especially at the beginning. It becomes a bit of a soap opera towards the end."

**JOHNNY COMES ACROSS AS PRETTY INTIMIDATING GUY.**

"It's a part of his personality. When he was in a good mood he was fun to be with, when he was in a bad mood he could be quite formidable. I think he enjoyed that. At first he was shocked by how he was viewed, when he saw the film, but then he asked around: 'Am I like that?' and everybody said, 'Yeah, pretty much', and he said, 'Oh okay.'"

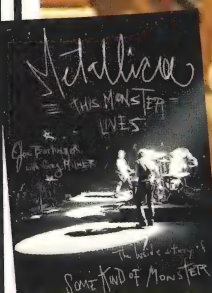
**DEE DEE'S QUITE RUDE ABOUT YOU IN THE MOVIE.**

"Dee Dee said that because he was afraid that if I got any credit I'd get all the credit. He was very paranoid about that."

**WE HEAR A RAMONES MUSICAL IS ON THE WAY.**

"That's true. It's called 'Gabba Gabba Hey', and it's starting in Perth, Australia. It should be in the UK in 2005. I've also got involved in acoustic music, taking mandolins, banjos and fiddles and creating modern, alternative music with them. I have a duo called Uncle Monk and we should have an album out next year."

## BOOK



## METALLICA: THIS MONSTER LIVES

BY JOE BERLINGER AND GREG MILNER

(ST MARTIN'S PRESS; £15.99)

**KKK**

THE BOOK ABOUT THE FILM ABOUT THE BAND.

**EVEN THE** most ardent fan must find it hard to watch 'Some Kind Of Monster' and not admit that, artistically at least, Metallica may well have lost it. Some time ago. Or that Lars Ulrich would appear to be a pompous little control freak capable of spouting sub-Ricki Lane 'wisdom' with the utmost of ease. "Our originality doesn't exist in a vacuum," he nods before the band chunder through another pre-'St. Anger' jam so unspeakably awful it would be laughed out of a 'Battle Of The Bands' contest.

But it was a fantastic film, and total confirmation that very few multi-million sellers have anything to say. Here, director



## GET THIS!

TONY HAWK, PRO SKATER RECOMMENDS...

## MARIO KART DOUBLE DASH

GAMECUBE, NINTENDO; £39.99

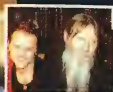
"My five-year-old son has a Gamecube and so I've become an involuntary expert at Mario Kart. I guess it's quite an old game now but it's still a classic. I think it's the constant challenge that keeps it interesting. You could never be a total expert because it keeps getting more and more difficult, and the power-ups start getting harder to get. I could never get tired of that game!"







## THINGS WE LEARN FROM 'THIS MONSTER LIVES'



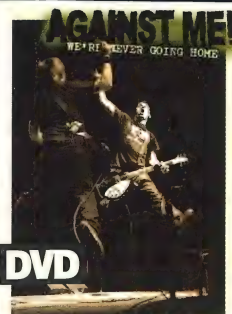
- ★ The droning, echo-laden jam dismissed by Lars' dad Torben in the movie was inspired by a Sigur Ros concert the band members attended the previous night.
- ★ Actor Sean Penn was present in many scenes, but refused permission to be included in the film.
- ★ Director Berlinger hated his rubbish pre-'...Monster' flick, 'Blair Witch 2: Book Of Shadows' so much he entered therapy upon its completion.
- ★ Rob Trujillo made his debut with Metallica lip-synching in front of thousands of San Quentin prison's hardest inmates.
- ★ After selling a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat for \$5 million Lars had to get drunk "to numb the pain".
- ★ Number of turkey sandwiches eaten by film crew during filming of 'Some Kind Of Monster': 178.
- ★ Number of pain-killers consumed by film crew during production: 3000.

Berlinger documents his time with the band with a steady level of respect, frustration, excitement, bemusement, exasperation – and always a sense of occasion. A disciple of *cinema verite*, he dissects the filmmaking process as much as he does his often-wounded subjects.

As in the film, stars of the show include Lars' plain-speaking father Torben, an incredulous departing Jason Newsted and sports casual-wearing therapist Phil Towle,

who was unable to keep Rage Against The Machine together, yet for \$40,000 per month shows great empathy for these cushioned multi-millionaires. Priceless. Berlinger respects everyone in the Metallica organisation, but is impartial enough to present a scenario that is essentially Spinal Tap minus the humour, while simultaneously writing a valuable account for any budding filmmakers.

**BEN MYERS**



## AGAINST ME! WE'RE NEVER GOING HOME

(FAT WRECK CHORDS DVD; \$10)

**KKKK**

**ON THE ROAD AND GETTING DRUNK WITH THE GAINESVILLE MISFITS.**

**AGAINST ME!** are the finest underground punk band doing the rounds right now. This DVD showcases their exhilarating live performances, and includes interviews with the band, their fans and random passersby. The real joy, though, is witnessing frontman Tom Gabel being mischievous in the behind the scenes stuff – stealing booze from Story Of The Year and their dickish crew; locking Taking Back Sunday in their own dressing room at a festival and fighting off the advances of a stupid drunk woman included. All the while, they're chased all over the country by major labels trying to woo them (FYI: they take the company booze and run).

Brilliant.

**EXTRAS:** interviews, tour of Fat Wreck offices, drinking game.

**RAE ALEXANDRA**

## DAVE GORMAN'S GOOGLEWHACK ADVENTURE



## DAVE GORMAN'S GOOGLEWHACK ADVENTURE

(AVALON DVD; £15.99)

**KKKK**

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE NERD KIND.**

**IT'S NOT** often that a spot of procrastination will force you to the ends of the Earth, grow a beard and play table tennis with a nine-year-old in Boston. While failing to start work on a novel, comedian Dave Gorman found himself immersed in the world of 'googlewhacking', the art of entering two words into Google and getting only one return.

His 91,000 mile journey takes him round the globe meeting people who've found googlewhacks. This DVD captures his live show where he recounts his hilarious story like a mad lecturer armed with a ginger beard, statistics and graphs. All because of words you'd never use in the pub.

**EXTRAS:** live audience Q&A, ad libs and outtakes.

**SIMON YOUNG**



## STRAPPING YOUNG LAD FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK (LIVE AT THE COMMODORE)

(CENTURY MEDIA; £14.99)

**KKKK**

**CANADA'S MASTERS OF METAL CAPTURED LIVE ON DVD.**

**IF YOU'VE** had the pleasure of witnessing Canadian metal lunatics Strapping Young Lad live, then you'll already be aware that certified mentalist Devin Townsend's mob are one of the most intense live experiences in the world.

And while watching a DVD doesn't offer quite the same visceral thrill, you still get the feeling of *wanting* to be there, banging your head to out-there metal shittstorms like 'Oh My Fucking God'.

Awesome stuff.

**EXTRAS:** Interviews, promo videos.

**NICK RUSSELL**

## BOOK



**BILLY CORGAN**

blinking with fists

## BLINKING WITH FISTS

BY BILLY CORGAN

(FABER AND FABER; £14.99)

**KKK**

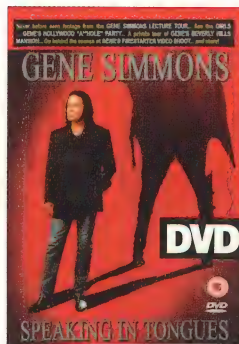
**EX-SMASHING PUMPKIN BECOMES A POET.**

**DEEP DOWN** inside, most rockers consider themselves 'poets'. But the truth is that very few – barring notable exceptions Phil Lynott and Lou Reed – have been able to pull off the whole rock-poetry thing.

Ex-Smashing Pumpkin leader Billy Corgan is the latest rocker to issue a poetry book – and unlike most, these are not song lyrics, but previously unread poems. True, early Pumpkins songs did possess a poetic flare and it's admirable that Billy has bared his soul like this.

But unless you're a super-fan, a mere 83 pages of poetry fluff for 15 quid just ain't cuttin' it.

**GREG PRATO**



## GENE SIMMONS SPEAKING IN TONGUES

(SANCTUARY DVD; £19.99)

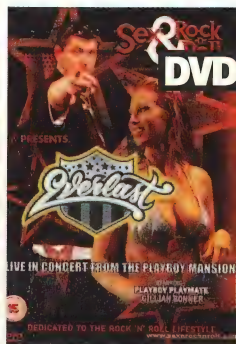
**KK**

**THE GOD OF THUNDER TALKS BOLLOCKS.**

**GENE SIMMONS** clearly doesn't suffer from a lack of self-esteem, so the fact that he toured Australia as some kind of lascivious, besyruped motivational speaker, makes total sense. However, releasing the show on DVD, interspersed with self-congratulatory footage of the Kiss man's opulent Hollywood home and doting family, makes absolutely no sense at all. Kiss devotees will lap up Simmons' wafer-thin philosophical musings – which, in their entirety, amount to little more than 'Do what you want' and 'Money gets you stuff' ...like, duh, thanks Gene! – but no-one else will give a weasel's shitpipe.

Mind you, the video for Simmons' cover of 'Firestarter' is very funny indeed. And rubbish.

**DOM LAWSON**



## EVERLAST

LIVE IN CONCERT FROM  
THE PLAYBOY MANSION

(SONY BMG DVD; £12.99)

**KK**

**LOTS OF TITS – AND ONE WITH A GUITAR.**

**GIVEN THAT** Everlast's post-House Of Pain career as a white trash blues man has been somewhat lacking in sound and substance, the idea of buffering his lacklustre live performance with lots of shots of silicone-enhanced pretties in the name of 'Sex And Rock 'n' Roll' (no drugs, alas), seems like a pleasant enough diversion. Once the mansion playmates have fussed over their outfits for the third time in perfect Stepford-monotone, however, the vacuity-levels throb painfully into the red.

**EXTRAS:** Behind the scenes footage, music video, Playmate montage.

**CATHERINE YATES**

## DVD



## DEF LEPPARD

BEST OF: THE VIDEOS

(UNIVERSAL DVD; £14.99)

**KK**

**THRILL TO MULLETED MEN IN UNION JACK SHORTS.**

**YOUR REACTION** to this release depends entirely on whether you're already a fan of the mighty Leppard. If so then a 29-track collection of every video they've ever made, although very scarce on extras, will undoubtedly be something you'll enjoy watching.

If not then viewing one slick, over-produced clip after another (which do,

admittedly, go incredibly well with the slick, over-produced music) is nothing short of purgatory.

They might be the biggest British rock band since Led Zeppelin – but Christ are they dull.

**EXTRAS:** Eight-minute version of 'When Love & Hate Collide'.

**PAUL TRAVERS**



METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENT

METROPOLIS MUSIC, SJM CONCERTS AND DF CONCERTS  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH HELTER SKELTER PRESENT

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- SUN 13 GLASGOW BARROWLAND  
0141 552 4601
- MON 14 BELFAST LIMELIGHT  
0489 032 5942
- TUE 15 DUBLIN OLYMPIA  
0818 719 330
- FRI 18 BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY  
0870 771 2000
- SAT 19 BRISTOL ACADEMY  
0870 771 2000
- SUN 20 MANCHESTER ACADEMY  
0161 832 1111
- TUE 22 LONDON ASTORIA  
BY DEMAND 2ND SHOW ADDED  
08701 500 044, 020 7287 0932
- WED 23 LONDON ASTORIA  
08701 500 044, 020 7287 0932
- THU 24 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS  
01752 229 922

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- SUN 30 NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS  
0115 958 8484
- FEBRUARY
- TUE 01 BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY  
0870 771 2000
- WED 02 LIVERPOOL CARLING ACADEMY  
0870 771 2000
- THU 03 NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY  
0191 261 2606
- SAT 05 GLASGOW THE GARAGE  
0871 220 0260
- SUN 06 EDINBURGH  
THE LIQUID ROOMS  
0871 220 0260
- TUE 08 BRISTOL CARLING ACADEMY  
0870 771 2000
- WED 09 PORTSMOUTH  
WEDGEWOOD ROOMS  
023 9286 3911
- THU 10 COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE  
0206 50 0900
- SAT 12 LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE  
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WWW.SUBCULTUREROCKS.COM

E-Mail your requests to SUBCULTUREROCKS@AOL.COM

COMING EVENTS

SAT JAN 8TH

GUEST DJ'S

## LESS THAN JAKE

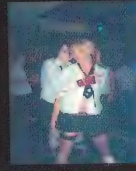
Florida's ska-punk superstars are our guest DJ's for the first Subculture of 2005 as they fly over from the USA to appear exclusively at the UK's biggest & best rock club and hang out with you guys!

Our biggest guest appearance yet! What a way to start the New Year!

SAT JAN 29TH

ST TRINIANS PARTY

Yup it's that time of year again with free drinks for all in fancy dress plus our regular competitions for the sexiest schoolgirl and naughtiest schoolboy. The biggest party of 2004 last year so don't miss this!



SAT FEB 5TH

GUEST DJ

KERRANG! EDITOR ASHLEY BIRD

Back with us for the first time in 2005 as guest DJ following many red-hot sets in 2004. As usual Ashley will be armed with bags of swag to giveaway in-between swigs of Vodka & Red Bull!

PUN TOO FRIENDLY DRINK PRICES!

10.00 - 11.00: £4.00 (incl. 10% discount)  
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12.00 - 1.00: £6.00 (incl. 10% discount)  
1.00 - 2.00: £7.00 (incl. 10% discount)  
2.00 - 3.00: £8.00 (incl. 10% discount)  
3.00 - 4.00: £9.00 (incl. 10% discount)  
4.00 - 5.00: £10.00 (incl. 10% discount)

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BIRMINGHAM

9.30PM - 3.00AM  
DALE END, BIRMINGHAM  
TEL: 0121 262 3000

# TEENCULTURE

BIRMINGHAM'S ROCK CLUB FOR AGES 12-17!

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

CARLING ACADEMY  
BIRMINGHAM

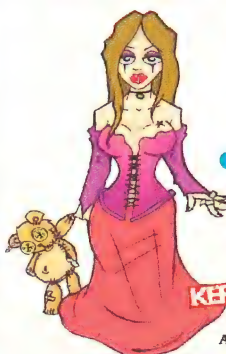
5.30PM - 9.20PM

COMING EVENTS

SAT JAN 8TH

GUEST DJ'S LESS THAN JAKE

The US ska-punk superstars are our guest DJ's for the first Teenculture of 2005 as they fly over from Florida to appear exclusively at the UK's biggest & best under 18's rock club and hang out with their fans! Our biggest guest appearance yet at Teenculture and a great start to 2005!



KERRANG! EDITOR ASHLEY BIRD

Appearing at Teenculture for the first time as guest DJ following many red-hot sets in 2004 at Subculture. Ashley will be armed with loads of freebies so don't miss it!

E-Mail your requests to: TEENCULTUREROCKS@AOL.COM  
WWW.SUBCULTUREROCKS.COM

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FRI 4TH FEB  
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DOORS 7.30PM £8.50adv\*  
six.by seven  
+ GUESTS

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or book online @ www.meanfiddler.com plus usual agents (subject to booking fee). Info line 020 8963 0940

# J Mascis

plus guests

Saturday 22nd January 2005  
LONDON BUSH HALL

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www.JMascis.com

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ADMISSION £4  
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PLUS GUESTS • DOORS 8PM - 1AM • (VIKING SKULL ON STAGE 10PM)

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**TWELVE TRIBES**  
ALL THAT REMAINS

*Johnny Truant*

**JANUARY**

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20 **GLASGOW QMU**  
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21 **NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY**  
0191 227 4757

22 **MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2**  
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plus Special Guest  
& **NORMAJEAN**

**April**

13 **Nottingham Rock City** 0115 941 2544

14 **Glasgow Garage** 0870 169 0100

15 **Manchester Academy 2** 0161 832 1111

16 **London Astoria** 0870 400 0688

17 **Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall** 01902 552 121

Credit Cards Tel: 0870 400 0688 (24hrs)  
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**FIFTEEN VISIONS**

plus guests

**March**

13 **Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms** 02392 863 911

14 **Exeter Lemon Grove** 01392 425 309

15 & 16 **Cardiff Barfly** 0870 907 0999

17 **Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall** 01902 552 121

18 **Leeds Cockpit** 0113 244 3446

19 **Sheffield Corporation** 0114 276 0262

20 **Glasgow King Tuts** 0870 169 0100

22 **Manchester Academy 3** 0161 832 1111

23 **Liverpool Uni** 0151 256 5555

24 **Oxford Zodiac** 01865 420 042

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**36 CRAZYFISTS**

PLUS GUESTS **TWELVE TRIBES** & **SUPPORT**

**APRIL**

3 **WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL** 01902 552 121

4 **NORTHUMBRIA UNI** 0191 227 4757

5 **GLASGOW KING TUTS** 0870 169 0100

6 **NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY** 0115 941 2544

7 **MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2** 0161 832 1111

8 **LONDON ASTORIA** 08701 500 044

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**GLASGOW SECC**  
Friday 14th January 2005

**NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA**  
Saturday 15th January 2005 0870 707 8000

**MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS ARENA**  
Sunday 16th January 2005 0870 190 8000

**BIRMINGHAM NIA**  
Tuesday 18th January 2005 0870 909 4144

**CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA**  
Wednesday 19th January 2005 02920 224 488  
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND

**LONDON BRIXTON CARLING ACADEMY**  
Friday 21st January 2005

**LONDON HAMMERSMITH CARLING APOLLO**  
Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd January 2005

Credit Cards Tel: 0870 400 0688 (24hrs)  
Presented by arrangement with ITB



**THUNDER**

PLUS GUESTS

**MARCH**

4 **SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY** 0114 222 8777

5 **BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY** 0870 771 2000

6 **BRISTOL ACADEMY** 0870 771 2000

7 **SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL** 023 8063 2601

9 **FOLKESTONE LEAS CLIFFE HALL** 01303 228 600

10 **LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE** 0870 771 2000

12 **NEWCASTLE CITY HALL** 0191 261 2606

13 **GLASGOW ACADEMY** 0870 771 2000

14 **MANCHESTER ACADEMY** 0161 832 1111

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Calls cost £1.50 (UK) or 1.90 (Ireland) per minute. We recommend you call from a landline as mobiles will cost more. Tones and Graphics are charged as £3 on Vodafone, Orange, Mobile and O2 (charged as 2 x £1.50 reverse billed messages) (IRL 4). Text Search costs 20p. You will incur your normal SMS and WAP charges. Callers must be 16 or over and have the bill payers permission. Customer Care Tel: 0871 872200 (UK) 01 2481792 (IRL). We currently support tones for Nokia, Sagem, Siemens, Sharp, Panasonic, Ericsson and Motorola phones. We support logos and picture messages for Nokia only. Please check the web to ensure your phone is compatible with [www.kerrangtones.com](http://www.kerrangtones.com). Please allow up to 24 hours for delivery in extreme cases due to network traffic. You may be contacted by KERRANG! with offers/info.



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO A CRANKED UP WEEK...

# VOLUME

JANUARY 5 - JANUARY 11

## SHOOT TO KILL! VELVET REVOLVER

LAY WASTE TO THE UK

THIS WEEK'S  
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...



\*Crazy  
stunts with  
BMX king **MAT  
HOFFMAN**



\*Excess all  
areas... **JOHN  
BELUSHI**



\*Getting  
rocks off at  
**ROCK**

\*Vampire  
killing  
spree in '**VAN  
HELSING**'...

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS / 7-DAY PLANNER / GET BOOKING



# the MAIN EVENT...

VR's Scott Weiland  
and friends get  
touchy-feely



## also RECOMMENDED...

### ↓ TOUR

## VELVET REVOLVER

Lock up your daughters!  
LA's sleaziest sons are back...



**Velvet Revolver are heading back our way with their KI-sponsored Rock & Fuckin' Roll show. And drummer Matt Sorum has the ladies of Britain on his mind...**

**How's the tour going?**

**Matt:** "God, I can't really complain. We've played to so many people, so many different-sized venues... I mean, Hammersmith was awesome last time. I don't like to play anything bigger than 5,000. It feels better, it sounds better. Arena rock is cool but it's just not my thing."

**A 5,000-seater isn't exactly intimate.**

**Matt:** "Yeah, but at least we can see who we're playing for."

**What are the crowds like?**

**Matt:** "We get everyone! Old people, really really young people... I noticed when we first came out it was really male-dominated, which kind of bummed me out being a single guy, but now it's like at least 50 per cent young girls. Seventeen, 18, 19... very few over 30."

**So, you're a man on the prowl?**

**Matt:** "Oh yeah! But it's also very interesting. It's either older people who probably never had a chance to see us before, or young people who aren't buying into the whole pop-fucking 'ram it down your throat' sensibility."

**Showing younger bands how it's done, eh?**

**Matt:** "Totally. We don't sit around and talk about the concept. It's just good honest rock 'n' roll. It's coming to a show and not having to watch someone just fucking standing there. We go out and pull the fucking trigger. We kick ass."

**Speaking of asses, do you ever get tired of looking at Scott Weiland's backside?**

**Matt:** "Er... I'll say of any band I've been in that this is the best time. We'll have some shows with him where we're 10 per cent down, but with Axl we had shows where we were 100 per cent down."

**Are you shy about playing your past hits?**

**Matt:** "No way. I took a young girlfriend of mine - this little 21-year-old Brazilian girl I used to date - out to see Audioslave, and they didn't play any Rage Against The Machine or Soundgarden songs. She was really disappointed. I learned something from that. It's like, 'Why can't we just give the people exactly what they want?'. But we could never do 'Sweet Child O' Mine'."

**Why's that?**

**Matt:** "That would be contrived and cheesy. We asked Scott what he wanted to do and he chose some, like 'It's So Easy' and 'Mr Brownstone'. And I love playing (Stone Temple Pilots') 'Crackerman' and 'Sex Type Thing'. That's such a great fucking song. We don't fucking dick around with the set-list, we just go out there and get it done."

**But won't that overshadow your new material?**

**Matt:** "You know what? No, because whatever anyone says 'Appetite For Destruction' is going to be around for fucking forever, and that's okay because we don't have a problem with our heritage. And the reality is we can't actually do a 90-minute Velvet Revolver set because we don't have enough songs!"

**What should a girl do to get your attention?**

**Matt:** "Just come right up to me and say hello. I usually go and introduce myself or I send my buddy at the audience..."

**Throw a drumstick...**

**Matt:** "Oh yeah, I'll do that at the end of the night. But it's an even spread. The guys get the sticks too."

**Just not the ones with your phone number on them...**

**Matt:** "Exactly! No, we've got a system. It's old school. Basically just go out there and grab 'em. There's a point where it'll fade but right now I'm still loving it so what the fuck? Pretty girls, playing rock 'n' roll... what more can a guy ask for?"

**TOUR DATES:** London Hammersmith Apollo January 9 and 10, Glasgow SECC 14, Newcastle Arena 15, Manchester MEN Arena 16, Birmingham NIA Arena 18, Cardiff International Arena 19, London Brixton Academy 21, London Hammersmith Apollo 22 and 23.

**SUPPORTED BY:** The Datsuns.

**MORE INFO:** [www.velvet-revolver.com](http://www.velvet-revolver.com)

### ← TV

## JOHN BELUSHI THE BIOGRAPHY CHANNEL, 8PM - JANUARY 10

An in-depth profile of one of US comedy's most legendary, controversial and rock 'n' roll figures. This documentary follows Belushi from his glory days on 'Saturday Night Live' through to his tragic drug-fuelled death in 1982.

**MORE INFO:** [www.thebiographychannel.co.uk](http://www.thebiographychannel.co.uk)



Drugs will fuck  
you up, kids...

### ← TV

## VAN HELSING SKY BOX OFFICE, EVERY 15 MINUTES - JANUARY 5

Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale star in this tale of vampires, werewolves and other assorted monsters, set in 19th century Transylvania. Gloriously OTT schlock horror fun.

**MORE INFO:** [www.skymovies.com](http://www.skymovies.com)



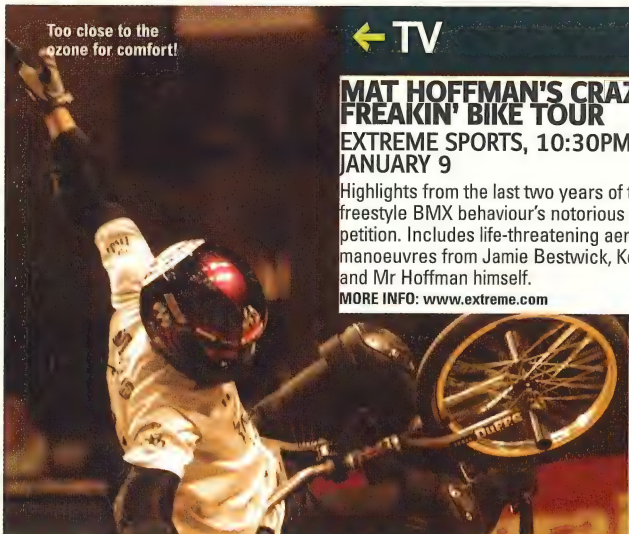
The Cat In The  
Hat

### ← TV

## MAT HOFFMAN'S CRAZY FREAKIN' BIKE TOUR EXTREME SPORTS, 10:30PM - JANUARY 9

Highlights from the last two years of the king of freestyle BMX behaviour's notorious stunt competition. Includes life-threatening aerial manoeuvres from Jamie Bestwick, Koji Kraft and Mr Hoffman himself.

**MORE INFO:** [www.extreme.com](http://www.extreme.com)



Too close to the  
ozone for comfort!

### ← CLUB

## ROCK LONDON CHARING CROSS MEAN FIDDLER - JANUARY 7

This glittering, lager-drenched cavalcade of alternative, metal and punk sounds has deservedly become one of the mainstays of London's rock-friendly club scene. Open from 11pm until 3:30am. Entry costs £6, £5 with a flyer or £4 for NUS cardholders.

**MORE INFO:** [www.meanfiddler.com](http://www.meanfiddler.com)



Fight for your  
right to party  
etc...





## KERRANG! TV

SKY DIGITAL 454 TELEWEST  
DIGITAL 332 / NTL 819

### COUCH SURFING ROCK

K!TV brings you the 'Greatest Videos Ever Back To Back' until January 7. Catch 'All Time Rock 100' January 6 at 1pm, including Nirvana, The Kinks, Korn and Green Day! And the 'Superstars Of Noise' January 7 at 6pm featuring only the Superstars of Kerrang! for one whole hour!

## KERRANG! ON-LINE

WWW.KERRANG.COM

### MEET VELVET REVOLVER

Head off to Kerrang.com now for the chance to win a meet and greet with Velvet Revolver at one of their forthcoming London shows... you could be shaking hands with guitar god Slash and hanging out with Duff! See [www.kerrang.com](http://www.kerrang.com) for details!

## KERRANG! RADIO

WWW.KERRANGRADIO.CO.UK

### TUNED MANIA

From Ugly Phil's breakfast show to The Asylum (Monday-Thursday 11pm-2am), K! radio has got your number... Check out Loz and Rob's 'Unsigned Session' on Sundays from 9-10pm or punk bible 'The Razor's Edge' on Saturdays 12-midnight-2am to name but a few...

## KERRANG! DIGITAL RADIO

WWW.FREEVIEW.CO.UK

### NON-STOP ROCK

The ultimate rock soundtrack, all day, every day through your Freeview box or digital radio! Now with added Kerrang! 105.2 power - find out what makes the West Midlands rock from Ugly Phil's breakfast show to Loz and Johnny Doom's full metal racket at 2am every Sunday! Details on all shows and regional variations on [www.kerrangradio.co.uk](http://www.kerrangradio.co.uk).

## ↓ WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5



### ↑ TV

#### HOUSE OF GAMES

FILM FOUR WEEKLY, 12MIDNIGHT

Tense psychological thriller directed by David Mamet. A psychiatrist and her patient become embroiled in a fiendish gambling scam, but all is not what it seems.

More info: [www.channel4.com/film](http://www.channel4.com/film)

### ↓ CLUB

#### FUZZ NUTTS

COVENTRY JAILHOUSE

Rock and metal tunes from resident DJ Mister Owen, plus regular freebies and booze at very reasonable prices. It's almost as if they want you to get really drunk and have a fantastic time. How weird. Doors open at 8pm and entry is free. Hurrah.

More info: [www.the-jailhouse.co.uk](http://www.the-jailhouse.co.uk)

### ↓ TV

#### STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN

SCI-FI CHANNEL, 10PM

Captain Kirk adjusts his corset and confronts an old foe in what is arguably the finest of all the 'Star Trek' movies. Mind you, that's not saying very much.

More info: [www.uk.scifi.com](http://www.uk.scifi.com)

### ↓ TV

#### IN THE COMPANY OF MEN

FILM FOUR, 12:15AM

Two nasty, misogynist businessmen hatch a plan to torment and humiliate a vulnerable woman to exact revenge for their own disastrous relationships.

More info: [www.channel4.com/film](http://www.channel4.com/film)

### ↓ CLUB

#### DAMAGED GOODS

LIVERPOOL BARFLY

All the finest rock and metal tunes, give-aways and competitions every week and free entry before 11pm - after costs two quid. Sounds like a good plan to us. Turn up on the night and go berserk. Simple. Entry

More info: [www.barflyclub.com](http://www.barflyclub.com)

### ↓ GIGS

BRISTOL Horseshoe The Worried Men  
CARDIFF Barfly Strange Pains, Woodhouse, Jinxed  
CROYDON Cartoon Exile, Still Life  
LEICESTER Atik Red Cars Go Faster, Rotary 10  
LEICESTER Charlotte Equilibrium, Given, Disschord  
LIVERPOOL Barfly Hydrous, Dead Good Stereo, Signified, If All Else Fails  
MAIDSTONE Jazz & Blues Café Flatline Theory, The Moise, Stoofy, Incoherence  
STOURBRIDGE Skate Park Godsize  
THURNHAM Black Horse Run V.T.

## ↓ THURSDAY JANUARY 6



### ↑ TV

#### PRO SURFING 2004

EXTREME SPORTS, 7:30PM

Located in Hossegor in the south of France, this spectacular surfing event features 300 of the world's best wave-botherers. Why not avoid getting wet and enjoy the death-defying aquatic feats from the safety of your armchair?

More info: [www.extreme.com](http://www.extreme.com)

### ↓ CLUB

#### ROCKIT

LONDON ORANGE YARD BORDERLINE

Brave the cold to shake your semi-frozen buttocks at one of the capital's best rock nights. Open from 11pm until 3am. Entry costs £5, £3 with a flyer.

More info: [www.meanfiddler.com](http://www.meanfiddler.com)

### ↓ GIG

#### PUSCHA

LONDON CAMDEN BARFLY

An evening of dark 'n' punky rock from one of the UK's hottest new bands to celebrate the imminent release of new single 'Show Me What Love Is'. Time to see (and hear) what all the fuss is about. Support comes from Subt Lemon, White Vinyl and Munkster. Tickets cost £5.

More info: [www.barflyclub.com](http://www.barflyclub.com)

### ↓ TV

#### BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS

SCI-FI CHANNEL, 6PM

Immensely foolish and not a little cheap looking, a group of heroic types join forces to defend a peace-loving planet from marauding aggressors.

More info: [www.uk.scifi.com](http://www.uk.scifi.com)

### ↓ GIG

#### CONQUEST OF STEEL

YORK BARFLY

Rising stars of the UK's true metal underground, Conquest Of Steel have swiftly built up a fearsome reputation as a live band. Entry is free. Flagons aloft!

More info: [www.fibbers.co.uk](http://www.fibbers.co.uk)

### ↓ GIGS

BRISTOL Sugar Loaf The Worried Men  
LEICESTER Atik Stonecat Blues, Pig Iron Joe, Gucci Pimp, Stole The Show, 40 Second Flaw  
LONDON Barfly, Camden Puscha, Subt Lemon, White Vinyl, Munkster  
SOUTHAMPTON Joiners Bloodshot Dawn, Retribution, From Ashes To Empires, Frostholt  
YORK Fibbers Conquest Of Steel, Gore, Nailed

## ↓ FRIDAY JANUARY 7



### ↑ FILM

#### END OF THE CENTURY - THE STORY OF THE RAMONES

(TBC)  
Documentary recounting the story of New York's original punk rockers. Those singing the band's praises include Rancid's Lars Frederiksen, Metallica's Kirk Hammett, the late Joe Strummer and Chili Peppers' Anthony Kiedis and John Frusciante.

More info: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

### ↓ CLUB

#### THANK FLOCK IT'S 2005!

LEEDS BAR PHONO

It's hard to tell if a Goth club night is really the best place to start your happy new year, but we strongly suspect that the folks at this West Yorkshire batcave are more cheerful than they'd admit. Drink, dance, wear black. Sorted.

More info: [www.fridayflock.net](http://www.fridayflock.net)

### ↓ FETISH

#### TABOO CLUB

LEICESTER GARDEN OF EDEN

One of the Midlands' most popular fetish clubs has its annual post-New Year bash. Tickets costs £10 in advance or £12 on the door. And don't miss the free "pervy prize draw". Sounds like a filthy bargain.

More info: [www.tabooclub.co.uk](http://www.tabooclub.co.uk)

### ↓ FILM

#### ALEXANDER

(15)

Extravagant Oliver Stone epic about the all-conquering King of Macedonia. Anthony Hopkins, Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie and Val Kilmer are among the stars competing with the FX-laden battle scenes as the Persian Empire gets its arse kicked all over the shop.

More info: [www.alexanderthemovie.com](http://www.alexanderthemovie.com)

### ↓ GIGS

ASHFORD South Eastern Tavern Sharpsters  
BROADOAR White Hart The Worried Men  
GILLINGHAM Beacon Court Bad To The Bone  
HARTLEPOOL Studio Bosseye, Chowder Boy  
LEICESTER Atik Dead Pets, Firebrand, The Smeas, Satans Little Heart Breakers  
LONDON Borderline, Orange Yard Headroom, Monochrome, Alex McEwan  
SOUTHAMPTON Joiners The Approach, PDHM, Stalefish, All My Lies  
WAKEFIELD Snooty Fox Cobain  
WHITSTABLE East Kent P.H. Headlong



## ↓ SATURDAY JANUARY 8

## ↓ SUNDAY JANUARY 9

## ↓ MONDAY JANUARY 10

## ↓ TUESDAY JANUARY 11

### ↑ CLUB

#### SOUTHSEA ROCKS SOUTHSEA FROG ON THE FRONT

An evening of ear-threatening action featuring all your favourite classic rock tunes. Entry costs £3 or £2.50 with a flyer. The night runs from 7:30pm until 12midnight. Last but not least, there's beer for £1.60 a pint. More info: 023 9275 3387

### ↓ TV

#### THE KING OF COMEDY SKY MOVIES 1, 8PM

Robert De Niro stars as the demented stand-up comedian who attempts to further his career by stalking and harassing a talk show host (played by American comedy great Jerry Lewis) in one of Martin Scorsese's most unsettling films. More info: www.skymovies.com

### ↓ CLUB

#### THE COVEN LUTON ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Bedfordshire's premier Goth club night opens its cobweb-encrusted doors at 9pm and goes on until 2:30am. Entry is free before 10pm, £3 for the following hour and £5 between 11pm and 12:30am. Happy hour is 10-11pm. Woo-hoo! More info: www.flame-nightclub.co.uk

### ↓ CLUB

#### DECADENCE LONDON SOHO ST MORITZ

A feast of glam-punk, sleaze rock and 'cutting edge six-string mayhem'. Whatever that might be. Open from 10pm until 3:30am. Entry costs £6 or £5 with a flyer. More info: 020 7437 0525

### ↓ GIGS

ABERDEEN Dr Drakes Errata, Rise & Collapse, Filthpact, Are We Blessed  
ASHFORD Star Public House Sharpsters  
BILSTON Robin II Dirty DC  
BIRMINGHAM Hibernian Sack Sabbath  
BRENTWOOD Hermit Club Black, Little Joe Zero, Acno  
CAMBERLEY Football Club Wherewithal, In The Dark  
CROYDON Cartoon Motorheadache, Rich Bitch  
GLASGOW Barfly Hondo Maclean, Hiding With Girls, Cry For Silence, Hollywood Ending  
GLASGOW King Tut's Multiples, Flying Matchstick Men  
HARTLEPOOL Studio Isor, P>S>P, The Nothing  
LONDON Borderline, Orange Yard Motel Hero, The Gems, Royal Riot  
LONDON Dome, Tufnell Park Age Of Hero's, Moorwater, Fear Of Friday's  
MAIDENHEAD Methodist Hall Tankus The Henge, Subject 2  
Nothing, Naked In Black, Interruptor Jones  
MARGATE Britannia Electric Experience  
NOTTINGHAM Junction 7 Kryah  
STRAFTON-ON-AVON Cox's Yard Cobain  
TAUNTON Rockers Club Unforgiven Kingdom  
WHITNEY Red Lion The Worried Men

### ↑ TV

#### CABIN FEVER SKY MOVIES 1, 9:45PM

Quirky horror mayhem, laced with pitch black humour, about a group of college friends who go on holiday to a remote mountain location only to be terrorised by a rampaging, flesh-eating virus. Unlucky! More info: www.skymovies.com

### ↓ TV

#### URI'S HAUNTED CITIES SKY ONE, 9PM

The spoon-bending mentalist hosts a special show devoted to more supposed ghostly cocking around and supernatural flannel. More info: www.sky.com

### ↓ TV

#### TED BUNDY SCI-FI CHANNEL, 10PM

About the notorious serial killer who murdered at least 19 young women during the '70s, escaped from prison twice and was eventually executed in 1989. Not to be confused with Al Bundy, who's that bloke off 'Married With Children'. More info: www.uk.scifi.com

### ↓ TV

#### EPOCH SCI-FI CHANNEL, 8PM

An alien monolith hangs above the Earth causing earthquakes and widespread panic. Utter bunkum, obviously, but silly enough to be entertaining. More info: www.uk.scifi.com

### ↓ EXHIBITION

#### MR. POTTER'S MUSEUM OF CURIOSITY BOLVENTOR BODMIN MOOR

Self-proclaimed "not very skilled" taxidermist Walter Potter displays the fruits of his patently warped mind. Exhibits include a two-headed lamb, a kitten with six legs and a monkey riding a goat. And some guinea pigs playing cricket. Entry costs £2.50 and the mad sod's door is open from 11am until 4pm. And no, we're not making it up. More info: 01566 86838

### ↓ GIGS

CHATHAM Alexandra Hotel Hi Voltage  
CROYDON Cartoon The Plague, The Phobics, The Duel, The Bomb 45s  
LONDON Apollo, Hammersmith Velvet Revolver, The Datsuns  
SOUTHAMPTON Joiners Working Lunch, Schoolboy Error, 3 DBS Down, Harpoon Larsen  
YORK Barfly Hondo Maclean, Hiding With Girls, Cry For Silence, Hollywood Ending

### ↑ TV

#### WORLD'S FREAKIEST FOODS SKY TRAVEL, 9PM

You'd think that a late night kebab would be gruesome enough for most people, but judging by some of the unspeakable (and utterly bizarre) things that people throw down their necks in this culinary car crash of a documentary... well, it's enough to put you off your dinner. More info: www.sky.com

### ↓ GIG

#### THE MORE I SEE WINCHESTER RAILWAY INN

One of the UK's best new bands, they've produced a cracking debut album ('The Wolves Are Hungry') and look set to capitalise on some great reviews by touring lots. More info: www.liveattherailway.co.uk

### ↓ TV

#### BLOW FILM FOUR, 10:25PM

The man behind America's vast cocaine market in the 1970s is Ted Demme's drug-bulging (and true) cautionary tale. More info: www.channel4.com/film

### ↓ TV

#### TAINT CARDIFF BARFLY

Pummeling rock bravado from these enduring Welsh scamps who recently celebrated their 10th anniversary. More info: www.barflyclub.com

### ↓ GIG

#### BATTLE OF THE BANDS LEICESTER CHARLOTTE

Heat seven for the Charlotte's intensive inter-band skirmish, this time featuring em-flecked melodicro merchants Have A Go Hero, plus Divides The Day and Another Direction. Come along and support the rock stars of tomorrow. Possibly. Entry costs £4. More info: www.thecharlotte.co.uk

### ↓ GIGS

CARDIFF Barfly Taint, Second Smile, Mr Valvasor  
LEICESTER Charlotte Have A Go Hero, Divides The Day, Another Direction  
LONDON Apollo, Hammersmith Velvet Revolver, The Datsuns  
LONDON Barfly @ Monarch, Camden Hondo Maclean, Hiding With Girls, Cry For Silence, Hollywood  
NEWCASTLE Trillians Dogtide  
SOUTHAMPTON Joiners Ghost Of Kings, Ultraviolet, Idesyne, Dutch Husband  
WINCHESTER Railway Inn The More I See

### ↑ TOUR

#### GRIND OVER THE UK TOUR CARDIFF BARFLY

Four bands for a frankly pitiful £5; you'd be a bell-end to miss this bonanza of kick-arse British talent starring Rochdale's finest Hollywood Ending alongside Hondo MacLean, Hiding With Girls and Cry For Silence. More info: www.barflyclub.com

### ↓ CLUB

#### CRASH NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

Nottingham's longest running alt-rock night keeps that New Year momentum going with all the finest tunes from DJ Spike. Open from 9:30pm until 2am. Entry costs £1 (NUS, before 11pm) or £2 before 12midnight. More info: www.rock-city.co.uk

### ↓ TV

#### METAL MAYHEM SCI-FI CHANNEL, 11:35PM

A dangerous robot is unleashed onto the streets of Hong Kong and the city's top crime-fighting team, the Gen-Y cops, find themselves involved in a whole heap of trouble when one of them is accused of stealing it, with fight scenes co-ordinated by Jackie Chan's stuntman Nicky Li. More info: www.uk.scifi.com

### ↓ CLUB

#### BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE LONDON OXFORD STREET CLUB METRO

Named after a Marilyn Manson classic, this club has one of the best playlists of all of London's rock nights. Expect everything! Open from 11pm until 2am. More info: www.wolfshhead.co.uk

### ↓ RADIO

#### THE ROCK SHOW RADIO 1, 1-3AM

Mike Davies continues his weekly mission to expose the ears of the nation to as much cool music as possible, with everything from My Chemical Romance to U2 getting an airing. Splendid! More info: www.bbc.co.uk/radio1

### ↓ GIGS

CARDIFF Barfly Hondo Maclean, Hiding With Girls, Cry For Silence, Hollywood Ending  
LIVERPOOL Barfly Gogz, The Compulsives, Milk, Shiva  
PORTSMOUTH Edge Of The Wedge @ Wedgewood Rooms  
Wherewithal  
SOUTHAMPTON Joiners Autocircus, Christopher Rees, The Adored, Wireless



"Who wants what's in my pocket?"

# HATEBREED



Photo: Retna

## ↓ JUST ANNOUNCED!

### ALTER BRIDGE

Reborn ex-Creed rockers take down: Manchester Academy II March 3, London Charing Cross Astoria 4.

### BLEEDING THROUGH

Metalcore guys grind: London Camden Underworld February 10, Swindon Furnace 11, Preston Mill 12, Aberdeen Moshulu 13, Glasgow King Tut's 14, Manchester Jilly's Rockworld 15, Norwich Ferry Boat Inn 16, Newport TJ's 17.

### BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

American Goth rockers do 'K! Most Wanted!' at: London Highbury Garage February 14, Liverpool Barfly 16, Cardiff Barfly 17, Glasgow Barfly 18, York Fibbers 19, London Camden Barfly 20.

### EDEN MAINE

UK hardcore metallers rock: Ashford Downtown Diner January 21, Reading 21 South Street 22, London Camden Barfly 25, Southampton Joiners 27, Bournemouth Mr Smiths 28, Manchester Satan's Hollow 29, Sheffield Corporation 30, Hartlepool Studio 31, Glasgow Barfly February 1, Leeds Vine 2, Peterborough Park 3, Hitchin Club 85 5.

### HATEBREED

US hard hardcore rock: Leeds Cockpit March 5, Sheffield Corporation 6, Glasgow Garage 7, Newcastle Uni Of Northumbria 8, Manchester Academy II 9, Dublin Whelans 10, Cork Nancy Spains 11, London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler 13, Oxford Zodiac 14, Portsmouth

Wedgewood Rooms 15.

### HONDO MACLEAN/HIDING WITH GIRLS

The 'Mighty Atom' tour brings up-and-coming Brit-talent to: Glasgow Barfly January 8, York Barfly 9, London Camden Barfly 10, Cardiff Barfly 11, Liverpool Barfly 12.

### J MASCIS

Grunge's big daddy plays: London Uxbridge Road Bush Hall January 22.

### LE TIGRE

Ex-Bikini Kill girl Kathleen Hanna goes electro-punk at: Sheffield Leadmill March 13, Manchester Academy III 14, London Kentish Town Forum 15, Glasgow Oran Mor 18, Bristol Fleece 20, Brighton

Concorde II 21.

### THE SOUNDTRACK OF OUR LIVES

Sweden's bearded alt-rockers take on: Manchester Academy III February 7, London Camden Electric Ballroom 8, Liverpool Uni Stanley Theatre 9, Oxford Zodiac 10, Leeds Cockpit 11, Brighton Concorde II 12, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 14, Glasgow King Tut's 16, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 17, Leicester Charlotte 18.

### YOURCODENAMEIS:MILO

Geordie post-hardcore types liven up: Liverpool Barfly January 24, Glasgow Barfly 25, York Fibbers 26, Sheffield Corporation 28, Cardiff Barfly 30.

Academy 8, Exeter Lemon Grove 9, Brighton Concorde II 10, Manchester Academy 11, London Brixton Academy 12.

### THE DWARVES

The most dangerous band in the world entertain: London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler March 19, Brighton Concorde II 20, Birmingham Academy II 22, Manchester Academy III 23.

### ELECTRIC SIX

US disco rockers electrify: Glasgow Barrowland February 20, Aberdeen Music Hall 22, Leeds Met Uni 23, Newcastle Uni 24, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 25, Manchester Academy II 26, Liverpool Academy 27, Northampton Roadmenders March 1, Bournemouth Fire Station 2, Cardiff Uni 3, Torquay Town Hall 4, Salisbury City Hall 5, Cambridge Junction 6, Aylesbury Civic Hall 8, Chelmsford Essex Uni 9, London Charing Cross Astoria 10.

### FEEDER

Grant Nicholas' much-loved Brit-rockers have added: Belfast Ulster Hall March 22, Dublin Olympia 23, Manchester Apollo 25 and 26, Glasgow Academy 28 and 29, Birmingham Academy 31, London Brixton Academy April 1 and 2.

### GOLDIE LOOKIN CHAIN

Your mother loves these dirty Welsh hip-rockers. Catch 'em get up to no good at: Manchester Academy February 11, Glasgow Barrowland 12, Newcastle Uni Of Northumbria 14, Hull Uni 15, Birmingham Academy 16, Southampton Guildhall 18, Exeter Uni Great Hall 19, Truro Hall For Cornwall 21, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 22, Norwich UEA 23, London Brixton Academy 24, Cambridge Corn Exchange 27, Gloucester GL1 28, Llangollen International Pavilion March 1, Dublin Ambassador Theatre 2, Belfast Ulster Hall 3, Port Talbot Afan Lido 5.

### GOOD CHARLOTTE

Maryland Goth-loving pop-punkers take on: Manchester Apollo March 18, Birmingham Academy 19, London Brixton Academy 20, Glasgow Academy 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, Bristol Academy 24.

### HANOI ROCKS

Finland's original glam rockers return to: London Camden Electric Ballroom February 3.

### THE HAUNTED

Swedish thrash metallers pummel: London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler February 24, Birmingham Academy 25, Leeds Cockpit 26, Glasgow Cathouse 27, Manchester Academy III 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms March 1, Leicester Charlotte 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, Sheffield Corporation 4, Oxford Zodiac 5, Exeter Lemon Grove 6, Cambridge Junction 7, with Martyr AD and Dead To Fall supporting.

### HENRY ROLLINS

LA hardcore icon brings his pissed-off/hilarious spoken-word shenanigans to: Oxford Playhouse January 20, Norwich UEA 21, Manchester Lowry 23, Leicester DeMontfort Hall 24, Glasgow Academy 25, Bristol Colston Hall 28, London Hammersmith Apollo 29.

### THE HIVES

Uniformed Swedish style icons rock: Brighton Dome April 16, London Hammersmith Apollo 20, Leeds Uni 21, Cambridge Corn Exchange 23, Liverpool Uni 24, Wolverhampton Civic 25, Norwich UEA 26.

### THE HURT PROCESS/UNDEROATH

UK and US post-hardcore bands get together to co-headline at: Cardiff Barfly January 19, Exeter Cavern 20, Bristol Fleece 21, Kingston Peel 22, Stoke Sugarmill 23, Derby Victoria Inn 24, Manchester Night & Day 25, Aberdeen Kef 26, Glasgow Barfly 27, Newcastle Cluney 28, Leeds Cockpit 29, Oxford Zodiac 30, Birmingham Academy II 31, Nottingham Rock City February 1, London Highbury Garage 2, Silverstein support.

### JIMMY EAT WORLD

Arizona emo-rockers play: Norwich UEA March 12, Glasgow Barrowland 13, Belfast Limelight 14, Dublin Olympia 15, Birmingham Academy 18, Bristol Academy 19, Manchester Academy 20, London Charing Cross Astoria 21, Portsmouth Pyramid 24.

### JUDAS PRIEST

The Metal gods return! Fuck yes! Bring your studded belts to: London Hammersmith Apollo March 16, Birmingham NEC 19, Manchester Apollo 21, Belfast Odyssey 24, Glasgow SECC 26, Newcastle Arena 27, Sheffield Arena 28, Cardiff Arena 30, Plymouth Pavilions 31. The Scorpions support.

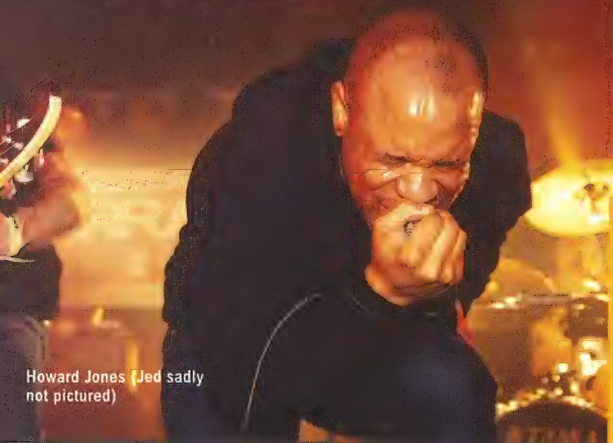
### KERBDOG

The cult-Irish alt-rock trio are reforming for a show in Dublin at: Temple Bar Music Centre February 5.

### KILLING JOKE

Legendary dirt-punks rock: London

## KILL SWITCH ENGAGE



Howard Jones (Jed sadly not pictured)

Photo: Retna

## ↓ UPCOMING

### 36 CRAZYFISTS

Alaskan metallers spoil us with another tour, with Twelve Tribes, at: Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall April 3, Newcastle Uni Of Northumbria 4, Glasgow Garage 5, Nottingham Rock City 6, Manchester Academy 7, London Charing Cross Astoria 8.

### APOCALYPTICA

Finnish classical rockers play: Oxford Zodiac January 28, London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler 29.

### BIFFY CLYRO

Hot and sweaty Scots play: Aberdeen Music Hall February 16, Glasgow Academy 17,

Manchester Academy 18, Norwich UEA 19, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 20, Leeds Met Uni 22, Cardiff Coal Exchange 23, Bristol Anson Rooms 24, London Charing Cross Astoria 25, Southampton Uni 26.

### DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979

Canadian nut-rock duo play: Brighton Freebutt January 31, Oxford Zodiac February 1, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 2, Sheffield Corporation 3, Leeds Cockpit 4, Glasgow King Tut's 5, Manchester Night & Day 6, Birmingham Bar Academy 7, Cardiff Barfly 8, London Camden Koko 9, London Highbury Garage 10.

### THE DONNAS

Californian rock vixens have revamped their UK tour dates to: Manchester Academy III March 7, Glasgow Garage 8, London Charing Cross Astoria 9.

### DROPKICK MURPHYS

Boston Irish-punk stalwarts rock up: Liverpool Uni March 1, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 2, Newcastle Uni 3, Birmingham Academy 4, Leeds Met Uni 5, Nottingham Rock City 6, Norwich UEA 7, Bristol

## GO SEE...

### KILL SWITCH ENGAGE

Heavy as fuck US metallers pummel: Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall January 19, Glasgow QMU 20, Newcastle Uni Of Northumbria 21, Manchester Academy II 22, London Charing Cross Astoria 23, with All That Remains supporting.



Shepherd's Bush Empire February 24 and 25. And support Mötley Crüe in June.

#### KREATOR

Teutonic thrash legends rawk: London Camden Electric Ballroom February 16.

#### LARS FREDRIKSEN AND THE BASTARDS

Rancid's guitarist brings his up-to-no-good side-project over here: Belfast Mandela Hall January 25, Dublin Temple Bar Music Centre 26, Liverpool Barfly 28, Milton Keynes Woughton Centre 29, Brighton Concorde II 30, Exeter Cavern Club 31, Stourbridge Rock Café February 1, Leicester Charlotte 2, Derby Victoria Inn 3, Sheffield Club Zero 4, Leeds Josephs Well 5, Manchester Jillys 6, Glasgow King Tut's 8, Edinburgh Venue 9, York Fibbers 10, Newport TJ's 11, Nottingham Rock City Basement 12, Bristol Fleece 13, London Camden Underworld 14 and 15.

#### THE MARS VOLTA

Texas prog-core rockers play: Birmingham Academy March 9, Manchester Academy 12, London Brixton Academy 13.

#### MASTODON

Alanta's favourite quartet bring their fabulous whale-core rock to: Glasgow Cathouse February 9, Newcastle Northumbria University 10, Birmingham Academy II 11, Manchester Academy III 12, Sheffield Corporation 14, Oxford Zodiac 15, London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler 16, Exeter Lemon Grove 17.

#### MEGADETH

Thrash metal titans return to: Dublin Ambassador February 1, Belfast Ulster Hall 2, Glasgow Academy 3, Birmingham Academy 4, Nottingham Rock City 5, Manchester Academy 7, London Charing Cross Astoria 8 and 9.

#### MÖTLEY CRÜE

LA's baddest boys are back! And they'll be kickstarting hearts at: Glasgow SECC June 14, Manchester Evening News Arena 15, Birmingham NEC 17, Cardiff International Arena 18, London Wembley Pavillion 19.

#### NAPALM DEATH

The legendary political grind metallers play an exclusive show to promote forthcoming album 'The Code Is Red... Long Live The Code' at: London Camden Underworld January 24.

#### NEW FOUND GLORY

US punk-poppers hit: Southampton Guildhall January 26, Manchester Academy February 9, Birmingham Academy 12, Bristol Academy 13, Liverpool Academy 14, London Hammersmith Palais 15.

#### NIGHTWISH

Operatic, grandiose metallers from Finland rock: London Charing Cross Astoria February 12, Birmingham Academy 15, Glasgow Academy 16, Manchester Academy 18, London Charing Cross Astoria 19.

#### NILE

Egypt-loving black metallers take on: London Camden Electric Ballroom March 8, Manchester Rockworld 9, Dublin Village 10, Leeds Josephs Well 11, Brighton Concorde 12, with Dying Fetus and Necrophagist supporting.

#### OXGEN FESTIVAL

Ireland's summer festival gets into the swing of things by announcing the Foo Fighters as headliners at: County Kildare Punchestown Racecourse Naas July 9 and 10.

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE USA

One-time K! cover stars, the Seattle pop-punks bring their 'Peaches' back to: London Charing Cross Astoria March 3.

#### RAMMSTEIN

Herr-metal! German industrial-rock meisters play the following K!-sponsored shows: London Brixton Academy February 3, 4 and 5, Manchester Evening News Arena 6, Nottingham Arena 7.

#### SIMPLE PLAN

Canadian pop-punkers entertain: Birmingham Academy January 18, Glasgow Garage 23, Manchester Academy III 24, London Charing Cross Mean Fiddler 26.

#### TAKING BACK SUNDAY

US screamo stars come back brighter to rock: Bristol Academy January 18, Portsmouth Pyramid Centre 19, Leeds Met Uni 20, Birmingham Academy 21, Manchester Academy 22, Newcastle Uni 25, Nottingham Rock City 26, Liverpool Academy 27, London Brixton Academy 28, with K! cover stars My Chemical Romance

# GREEN DAY

## GO SEE... GREEN DAY



"They've always put on an amazing live show. The first time I saw them was before 'Dookie' came out, in '92 or '93. They were playing in a club called Soma in San Diego. I remember it was funny because all the talk was that Green Day were gonna be signed to a major label, and back then there were lots of arguments as to whether people should sign to major labels. Billie Joe (Armstrong) was onstage and he said, 'Hey everyone, make sure you clap really loud because the executives from the label are trying to decide whether they want to sign us or not tonight, so let them know what you think'. He was making a joke out of it, which was pretty cool."

#### MARI HOPPUS, BLINK 182

Billie Joe Armstrong's much loved US punkers return for their biggest UK tour in a decade: Birmingham NIA January 23, Brixton Academy 24 and 25, Nottingham Arena 27, Manchester MEN Arena 29, Dublin Point 31, Brighton Centre February 2, Cardiff Arena 3, London Hammersmith Apollo 6 and 7, Newcastle Arena 8, Glasgow SECC 10, Milton Keynes Bowl June 18.

#### SUPPORTING.

#### TERRORISTION

The original Britrockers are back for one week only to party at: Norwich UEA April 10, Cambridge Junction 11, Nottingham Rock City 12, Birmingham Academy 13,

Manchester Academy 14, London Kentish Town Forum 15, Leeds University 16.

#### THIN LIZZY

Legendary Irish rockers (minus the late Phil Lynott) return in revamped form at: Glasgow Academy January 28, Newcastle City Hall 29, Llandudno North Wales Theatre 30, Liverpool Academy February 1, Manchester Academy 2, London Shepherd's Bush Empire 4, Sheffield Octagon 5, Birmingham Academy 6, Bristol Academy 7.

#### THUNDER

Classic Britrockers on the comeback trail at: Sheffield Uni March 4, Birmingham Academy 5, Bristol Academy 6,

Southampton Guildhall 7, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 9, London Shepherd's Bush Empire 10, Newcastle City Hall 12, Glasgow Academy 13, Manchester Academy 14, Norwich UEA 16.

#### THE USED

Bert McCracken's great unwashed punks take on the UK: Manchester Academy January 14, London Brixton Academy 15, Sheffield Leadmill 16, Glasgow QMU 18, Newcastle Uni 19, Birmingham Academy 20, Nottingham Rock City 22, Cardiff Uni 23.

#### VELVET REVOLVER

The ex-Stone Temple Pilots/Guns N'Roses supergroup returns to spread rock 'n'

fuckin' roll across the country at: London Hammersmith Apollo January 9 and 10 2005, Glasgow SECC 14, Newcastle Arena 15, Manchester MEN Arena 16, Birmingham NIA Arena 18, Cardiff International Arena 19, London Brixton Academy 21, London Hammersmith Apollo 22 and 23. The Datsuns support.

#### VINCE NEIL

As well as touring with the reformed Mötley Crüe, the frontman also headlines later in the year: Dudley JB's November 30, Newport City Live Arena December 1, Bradford Rio 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, London Charing Cross Astoria 4.

## ↓ VENUE NUMBERS / HOTLINES

**Aberdeen** Dr Drakes; 01224 596999  
**Aberdeen** KEF; 01224 648000  
**Aberdeen** Music Hall; 01224 632080  
**Aldershot** West End Centre; 01262 330040  
**Ashford** Downtown Diner; 01233 624276  
**Belfast** Mandela Hall; 028 9091 1062  
**Belfast** Odyssey; 0870 2434455  
**Belfast** Ulster Hall; 028 9032 3900  
**Bilston** Robin 2; 01902 497860  
**Birmingham** Academy; 0121 262 3000  
**Birmingham** Bar; 0121 262 3000  
**Birmingham** NEC Arena; 0870 904133  
**Birmingham** NIA Academy; 0121-220 9988  
**Birmingham** Roadhouse; 0121-458 6883  
**Birmingham** Royal George; 0121-772 5420  
**Botley Hill** Farmhouse; 01959 540720  
**Bournemouth** Club X; 01202 556622  
**Bournemouth** Mr Smiths; 01202 291617  
**Bradford** Rio; 01274 735549  
**Brighton** Centre; 01273 202881  
**Brighton** Concorde II; 01273 772770  
**Brighton** Dome; 01273 700747  
**Brighton** Free Butt; 01273 603974  
**Brighton** Pressure Point; 01273 702333  
**Bristol** Academy; 0870 771 2000  
**Bristol** Anson Rooms @ University; 0117 9738374  
**Bristol** Bierkeller; 0117 9268514  
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Avril Lavigne - Nobody's H	11065	11049	Metallica - Enter Sandman	3849	7165
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Blink 182 - I Miss You	9884	9867	Narcotic Thrust - I Like It	10011	10001
Bon Jovi - Living On A Prayer	3945	9569	Pink Floyd - Another Brick	1311	8471
Bowling For Soup - 1985	10853	10799	Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody	1315	8475
Busted - Thunderbirds/3am	10436	10416	Queen - Don't Stop Me Now	11122	11076
CKY - 96 Quite Bitter Beings	6080	7168	Queen - We Will Rock You	4410	9057
Coldplay - Clocks	8248	8344	Rammstein - Amerika	11157	11136
Darkness - Thing Called Love	9157	9258	Rasmus - In My Life	11028	11005
Darude - Sandstorm	9754	9740	Rasmus - In The Shadows	10009	10003
Deep Purple - Black Knight	4524	9565	Razorlight - Rip It Up	11114	11089
Deep Purple - Smoke On The	3827	9570	Red Hot C Ps - Can't Stop	8143	8478
Delays - Lost In A	11106	11082	Robbie Williams - Angels	3580	8482
Dualers - Kiss On The Lips	10919	10902	Robert Miles - Children	11069	11043
Embrace - Ashes	11060	11040	Rolling Stones - Paint Black	3800	8536
Eminem - Just Lose It	10977	10968	Scissor Sisters - Laura	10313	10294
Eric Prydz - Call On Me	10679	10669	Sex Pistols - Anarchy UK	10066	10040
Europe - Final Countdown	5353	9567	Silknnot - Duality	10323	10287
Fountains Of W - Stacy's M	9913	9908	Status Quo - Thinking You	11121	11091
Franz Ferdinand - Take Me O	9712	9711	Streets - Could Well Be In	11117	11074
Funeral For A Friend - Esc	9781	9778	Terror Squad - Lean Back	10850	10811
Good Charlotte - I Just Want	11158	11142	Thunder - I Love You	11105	11080
Good Charlotte - Predictable	10846	10819	U2 - Vertigo	11016	11010
Green Day - American Idiot	10590	10549	V - You Stood Up	11019	11015
Green Day - Boulevard Of	11110	11071	Van M - Brown Eyed Girl	4935	8563
Guns 'n' Roses - Sweet Child	8589	6977	Velvet Revolver - Fall To	10856	10805
Hoobastank - The Reason	9951	9933	White Stripes - Jolene	11061	11048
Jet - Get Me Outta Here	11159	11138	Yeah Yeahs - Y Control	11029	11014

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Angel	4603	8949	Exorcist	3773	9722
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					Grand Theft Auto 1050
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**PERSONAL**

DEAR RACHEL PERRY I'd like a song about myself so I can stop real slim with out my pills. Internet search Miedzianik For Info: Can someone write to Rachel Perry so I can get a song: Rachel Perry VH1 Top 20 Video Countdown. 1633 Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, NY10019 USA. Love David Miedzianik

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### PLACE: DIRT RIOT 2 RACE CAR MEET, SAN BERNADINO

IS MOTOR RACING SOMETHING YOU RECKON YOU'RE GOOD AT?

"Not in a million years! Put it this way, if the speed limit's 50, I'll be doing 40! This kind of racing is really cool, though – more interesting than NASCAR where they're just going around in circles. There's an element of danger."

YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO PLAY GIGS IN WEIRD REDNECK PLACES LIKE THIS...

"Well, we do well in big cities, but I think rock 'n' roll has always done better in either more industrial places like Flint, Michigan or out in the country. I think it's the no apologies, blood and guts, unpolished aspect of the band. And all the songs about rednecks and trucks!"

WHAT'S THE FASCINATION THERE?

"When we first started touring I really got into touring the USA and there's a lot of things that annoy me and I find completely obnoxious, but at the same time it's a really weird place. In a lot of ways it's very schizophrenic and I always get a kick out of finding those bizarre enclaves of weirdos. People mistakenly call them rednecks, but it's really not, it's just weirdos."

WHERE'S THE WEIRDEST ONE?

"There's a place in Arizona called Nothing, with about 50 residents! They had a sign outside that said, 'Welcome to Nothing. We believe in Nothing, we hope for Nothing and expect Nothing'. They had a rattlesnake museum and a barnyard that was called an art museum which

was a stack of paper and some crayons. People passing through the town would do a little drawing and tack it to the interior of this barn and there was hundreds of these bizarre sketches from whoever had happened to pass through Nothing!"

YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!

"I shit you not! It's not on any map and I've only ever found one other person who's ever been through Nothing!"

ANY FAVOURITE WEIRDOS?

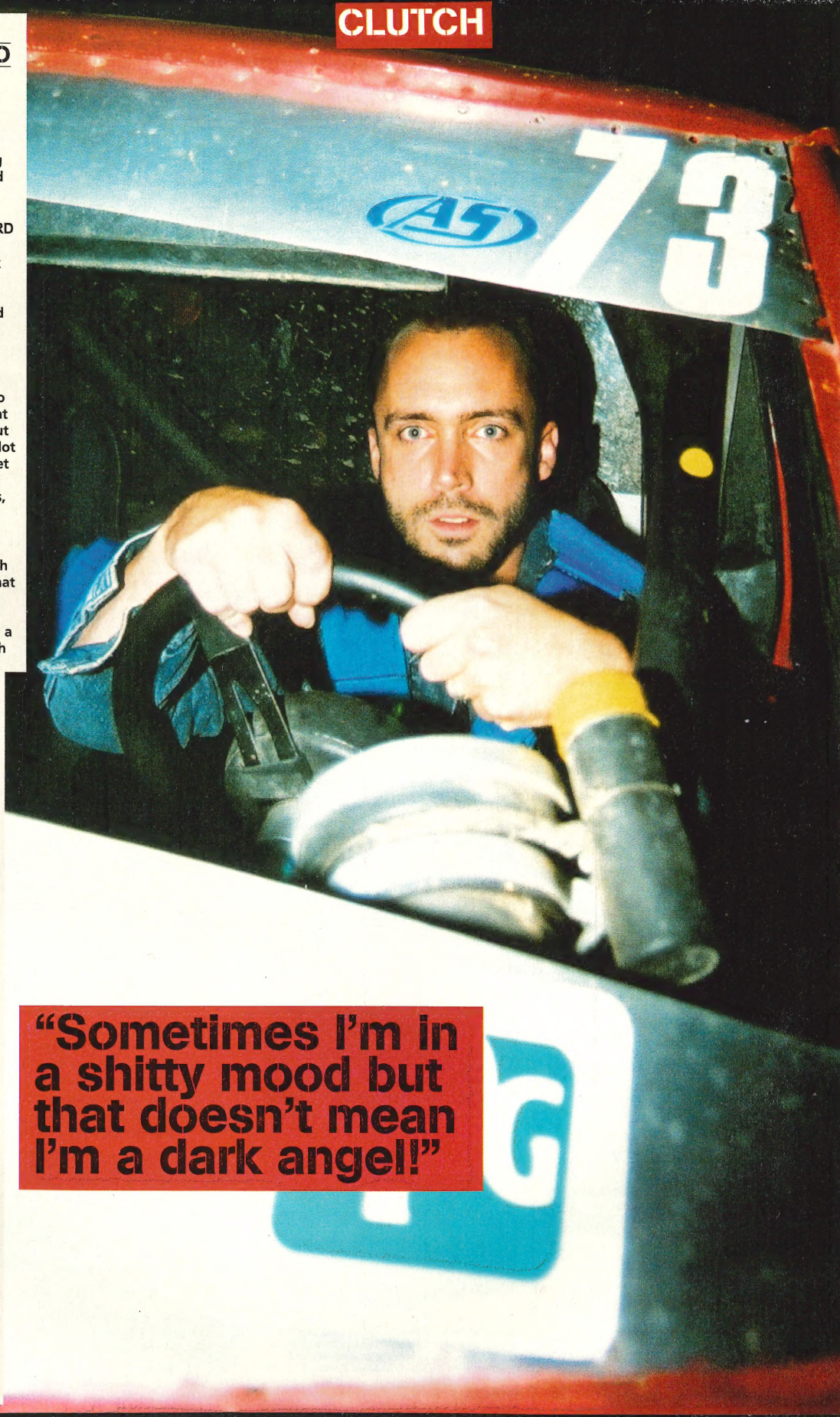
"Well there's no shortage of weirdos out there. One of them's in Louisville, Kentucky and he always has messages from the ethereal plane. The ones who think they're gaining information from some kind of higher power are unnerving. One guy in Richmond came up to me and told me he knew what I was up to and my disguise would be revealed soon and people would know me for the dark angel I really am!"

AND ARE YOU?

"Not to my knowledge! Sometimes I'm in a shitty mood, but I don't think that means I'm a dark angel!"

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CONSPIRACY THEORY?

"I heard one the other day that there was no plane that crashed into the Pentagon and it was all faked, which I find incredibly hard to believe. Five or 10 years ago the alien conspiracy theory was in favour, but now political illuminati things, for obvious reasons have become more popular. I found myself not reading them anymore because I became incredibly paranoid!" ■



**"Sometimes I'm in a shitty mood but that doesn't mean I'm a dark angel!"**

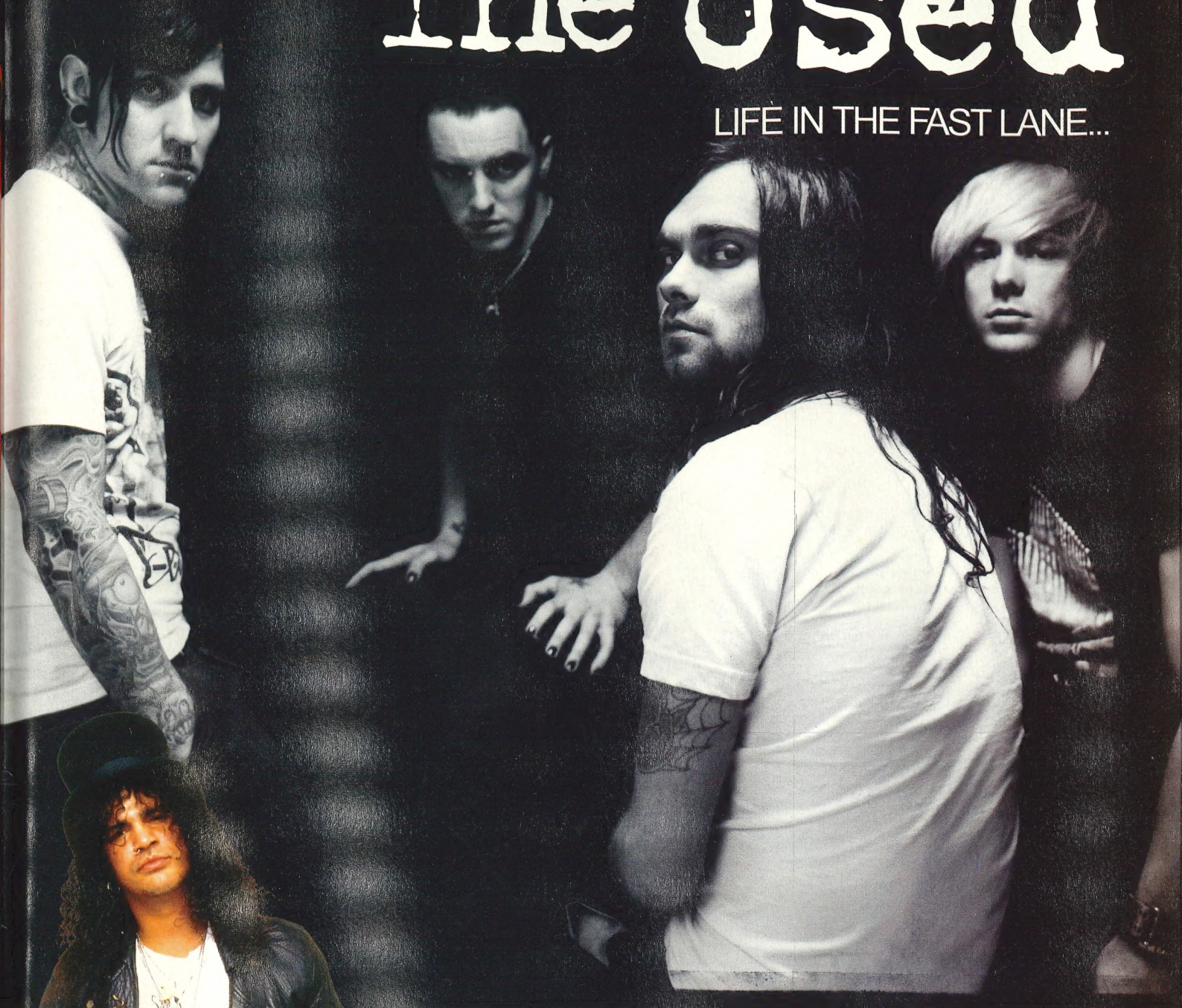




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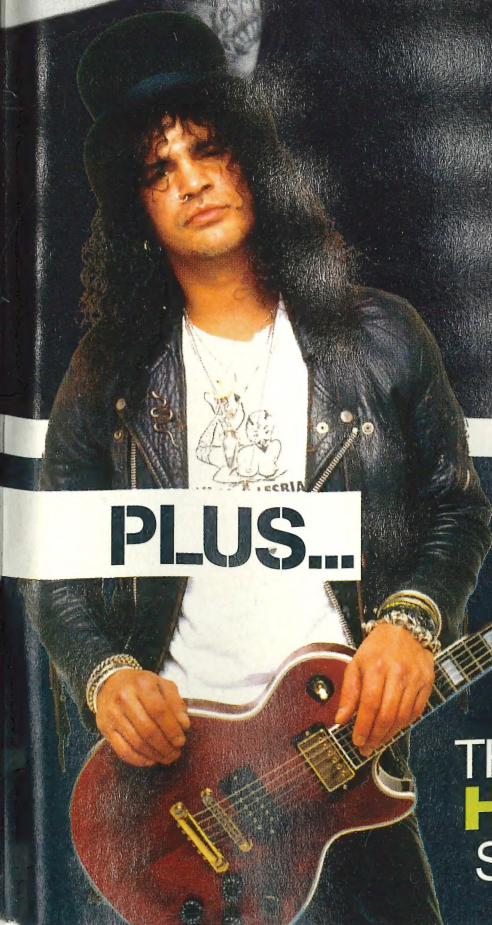
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